Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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Alert as new mother sent home with pack inside her

CHIEFS IN PLEDGE ON 'NEVER EVENT'

Report by Richard Guttridge

A NEW mother left hospital after she gave birth, while tissue designed to stop bleeding was still left inside her, it has emerged.

The woman only discovered the error when she was in the shower at home.

She had given birth at City Hospital in Birmingham two days earlier and the fact a pack, used to stem bleeding, had not been removed was missed by doctors. Bosses at the hospital said lessons will be learned from the 'never event'.

And an investigation was launched by Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, which runs the hospital. The incident was so serious to be classed as a 'never event', which should not take place in a hospital.

An investigation found there was a breakdown in communication, with a ward round request to remove packs never making it to teams caring for the mother.

The pregnant woman, who did not speak English, attended the hospital on June 4 suffering antenatal bleeding. She was kept in overnight and when the bleeding continued it was decided she needed to have a Caesarean.

Delivery

The baby was delivered safely and two packs were inserted. Doctors noted this but when a request was later made for them to be removed, no change was made to the documentation they rely on. The mother then discharged herself from hospital.

Following the investigation, hospital bosses said staff would be briefed on the importance of updating documents in a bid to avoid a repeat of the incident.

Councillor Bob Lloyd, vice chairman of Sandwell Council's Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board, said he was disappointed to hear of the incident. He added: "These things are called never events for a reason – because they should never happen. It's important that people learn from this and it doesn't happen again. Obviously it's really disappointing that this has happened and it must have been distressing for the lady involved."

Medical director Dr Roger Stedman said: "From our investigation we have identified that the correct information in relation to the number of packs used during a procedure was not properly documented and the handover between clinicians was incomplete.

"We can never promise no errors will happen in care, but we are constantly working to be as safe as it is possible to be."

HUNDREDS ON THE BALL FOR TOP TOURNAMENT

A view of the 37th Sandwell Volleyball Tournament, at Sandwell Valley park, with Redhill taking on the overall winners, Liverpool

A Birmingham Uni player is seen at full stretch going for the ball

An Alder Aces player takes a fall

SCORES of volleyball players from across the country descended on West Bromwich to take part in the 37th annual Sandwell Volleyball Tournament, at Sandwell Valley on Saturday.

The award-winning tournament attracted players in the three categories – men, women and mixed teams. Richard Callicott, the president of British Volleyball and honorary president of Volleyball England, said the day had been a success.

Since the event returned to Sandwell Valley in 2010 it has continued to grow and the latest edition was made up of 24 teams. The overall winners were Liverpool, with the University of Birmingham second and Wombourne third.

Mr Callicott said: "We had lots of visitors to Sandwell Valley stop off to watch and take an interest. There were lots of people fascinated and interested by it and wanting to see what was going on. The sport is beginning to prosper and there are a lot of teams in the Black Country and Staffordshire."

While still not as popular as its mid-1990s peak – when the event attracted up to 4,000 participants – Mr Callicott said it is becoming a fixture in the calendar and increasing in popularity year on year.

Consideration is being given to extend it to a two-day tournament next year, with teams invited to stay over for the duration by camping out. The tournament was popular in the 1990s but there was a spell at the start of the 2000s when it did not take place.

DEVELOPMENT

Chance glassworks campaign by pupils

SCHOOLCHILDREN have joined a campaign to protect a historic Smethwick glassworks site which is the subject of a proposed £10 million transformation.

A campaign group wants to bring homes and employment to the historic Chance Brothers site. However, concerns have been raised that the presence of a skip hire firm could scupper their plans.

Year 7 pupils from Holly Lodge School in Smethwick have been brought on board after researching the history of the glassworks site. The school has teamed up with the Chance Glass Works Heritage Trust to call upon planners to reject an application from the skip firm to remain at the site.

TRAFFIC

Oil spill after crash sparks M6 gridlock

MOTORWAY drivers faced severe delays after oil spilled on the road following a crash between a car and a lorry.

The smash between the vehicles occurred just before 10am on Monday, on the M6 southbound between Junction 7 at Great Barr and Junction 6 at Spaghetti Junction.

This led to one lane being closed and saw queues snarling back to Junction 10 for Walsall. The carriageway reopened around 11.30am, although congestion continued.

FOOTBALL

Saunders hopes for win to beat car fees

AIRPORT bosses have promised to rip up former Aston Villa player, and now pundit, Dean Saunders's mammoth parking fee – but only if Wales win Euro 2016.

Former Welsh striker Saunders is bracing himself for a large bill after leaving his car in the short stay area at Birmingham Airport – thinking that debutants Wales would go out of the tournament early.

Chris Coleman's side has confounded all expectations to reach the semi-finals following a stunning 3-1 win over Belgium. Saunders said he expects his extended stay to see his parking charges rise to £1,000 by the time he returns.

INSIDE

FLYING HIGH FOR BLACK COUNTRY

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Fearless Millie nominated for award

Bravery award – Millie Dee

A FEARLESS teenager who scared a burglar from her home has been nominated for a young citizen award.

Millie Dee from West Bromwich came face-to-face with the crook – who was armed with a bag of tools – on the stairs of her home and caused him to flee after screaming 'get out of my house' at the top of her voice.

She also made sure her 12-year-old sister Amber was safe in a bedroom upstairs before calmly calling 999, giving officers the 'most detailed and precise description of an offender' they had heard. Millie, aged 15, will find out if she has won the award at the PCC's Outstanding Citizens ceremony, next Wednesday, at The Rep in Birmingham. She was nominated by West Midlands Police. Her mum, Karen said: "It was a Saturday morning and I was out at work and their dad was walking the dog.

"There was a knock at the door and Millie noticed a strange car and a man she didn't recognise outside – so she told Amber to leave it and they both stepped away from the door. But he came back around 20 minutes later and, unbeknown to Millie and Amber, breaks in through the conservatory. The first thing Millie hears of it is the click of the living room door and then they are face-to-face on the stairs.

"Millie screams at the top of her lungs and he runs away back the way he came.

"She called the police and stayed so calm and collected. They say your reaction is either fight or flight and I'm really proud she stood her ground."

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "Millie was so brave on the day in question – there are not many people out there who would have stood their ground and been so fearless. Well done, Millie."

Teenager suffered ordeal after being held

A TEENAGER held another youth hostage and threatened to kill him unless friends and family members transferred money into his bank account.

But Mohammed Islam was snared by a half-eaten chocolate bar that he enjoyed while carrying out the crime, which helped to jail him for eight years.

He casually munched on the Wispa while making his demands on March 25 this year, as his terrified victim sat scared for his life on the 18-year-old's bedroom floor.

Islam was able to get the victim – also then aged 18 – to his address, at Brookpiece House in Druids Heath, by using a girl he knew as a ruse to entice him over.

When he arrived, he held a knife to his throat, pulled his jumper over his head and dragged him into his bedroom where he forced him to sit on the floor.

Islam made the victim phone his dad to tell him he was being held hostage and ask for cash. But when he only agreed to send £150, Islam saw red and snatched the phone from him. He told the unsuspecting father that unless he transferred a further £150 on top of the £150 he had already promised, he would stab his son.

Islam then headed out with the victim's bank card and PIN to withdraw the money he had just extorted.

But when Islam got back, he demanded even more money. He made a second call to the father and this time falsely told him he had actually carried out the threat.

Reduced to tears, the dad transferred yet another £150, which Islam went out to withdraw.

After a three-hour long ordeal – during which he was slapped around the head and threatened – the 18-year-old was walked out of the flat with a plastic bag over his head.

As Islam led him out of the flat towards a lift, the victim was able to grab the half-eaten Wispa and, after a few minutes, he removed the bag before running to the nearest house for help. Police arrested Islam on April 3.

Traces of DNA from the half-eaten Wispa were directly matched to Islam, who was later also picked out in an identification parade.

At Birmingham Crown Court on Friday he was sentenced after pleading guilty to robbery, false imprisonment and blackmail.

Market finally shuts after 40 years' trade

CRADLEY Heath market has closed down after more than 40 years after a decrease in traders.

It comes after the market was left with just one stallholder after traders abandoned the place, moving into nearby shop units.

Oyster Properties say they are now in talks with big retailers Asda and Lidl over the future of the market.

Concerns were raised earlier this year about falling footfall at the 40-capacity market hall, despite a five-figure investment by the property group.

A spokesman for Oyster said: "The last year and a half we have been trying to revive the market and get it back to where it should be but we either did not have the right people coming in or they were just not coming at all. It was not very sustainable as the biggest kill was the rates. Unfortunately it has not survived but are keen to look to the future and get someone in the space."

Focus

Around six stalls have now moved into the shop units attached to the market hall, also owned by Oyster, including former pet food, flowers and giftware stalls.

The spokesman continued: "Since it has been empty we have spoken to a few large retail companies who could bring more footfall into Cradley by taking over the old space. These include names such as Home Bargains, Asda and Lidl. Our focus is to look for the right person to go into there now.

"What is extremely positive is the fact that it has created an entrepreneurship in the town as the adjoining shop units that some holders have moved into are doing very well. We want to see the whole of Cradley regenerated in a similar way."

Gary Link, who had previously worked on the fish counter in the market, said the end of the market was incredibly sad.

"It was expected that it was going to happen as there was just one trader left in the end as most had moved on or moved into the shop units," Mr Link said.

"Nevertheless I was still shocked as it used to be thriving and it was really sad to see it deteriorate."

The Central Market Hall on High Street is still open to shoppers.

Ex-pilot shares his war horrors

The People's Orchestra seen during the performance on Sunday

Ex-RAF war pilot, John Peters

A WAR hero who was shot down in Iraq and paraded on national TV inspired a crowd with the frightening realities of his experience.

Former fighter pilot John Peters was in the RAF during the first Gulf War, when his Tornado was shot down on the very first low-flying mission. Mr Peters was captured, taken to prison and tortured. A photo of his battered face was shown on Iraqi television which was seen across the world.

At a concert to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Somme, by The People's Orchestra in West Bromwich on Sunday, he shared his experiences of the true reality of war.

Mr Peters said: "I went to war with 50 other friends – they all have fantastic stories and got shot at, or did 25 war missions. But none of them are asked to speak at town halls like this to tell their own stories. So why me? The reason is that picture. We were the ones on TV. I went to war and got shot and captured. But when I returned home I returned home to mass media attention – everyone was saying I was brave."

His harrowing experiences at the hands of Iraqi troops were expressed with brutal honesty. After parachuting out of his jet he and navigator John Nichol were captured in the desert by 25 soldiers with machine guns. On his journey to the Iraqi capital, Mr Peters said his head was 'smashed against the side of the lorry' and he was 'hit by pistol butts'.

Then when interrogated he explained how he was only supposed to answer questions about name, rank, number and date of birth.

Mr Peters said: "Suddenly you're on the floor with five or six men hitting you with baseball bats. They haul you up then smash you on the floor again. You're hit with rubber truncheons, your hair is set on fire, they threaten to gang rape you or put knives up your ****. This goes on for minutes, for hours, it goes on for days – it goes on for seven weeks.

"Then one day the bombing stops, the ground stops vibrating and there's a knock on the door. The man who came in said 'good morning Flight Lieutenant, the war is over. If there's anything my staff can do for you then please ask.'"

New post office to open in shop

A NEW post office will be opening in Tipton. The new Ocker Hill Post Office 'local' service will open at Premier Stores, in Toll End Road.

The new branch, which will open on July 15, will be have easy access via a permanent ramp at the entrance and adequate space for wheelchair users inside. There will also be a hearing loop at the counter. Post Office services will be available during the store's opening hours of 7am - 8pm seven days a week.

The present Ocker Hill Post Office at 55 Toll End Road, will close at 1pm on July 14.

Care firm's CQC rating coup after inspection

A BIRMINGHAM community care company has become the first of its type in the city to achieve an outstanding accreditation from industry regulators the Care Quality Commission.

Midland Care UK Ltd, based in Woodlands Road, Sparkhill, was awarded the highest possible rating after commission inspectors could find no faults on the care given or the way the business operated.

Owner and registered manager of Malik Khan, said: "I could not have achieved this on my own and it shows just how hard the team has worked in giving the best possible care to our clients. As far as I'm aware there is only one other home care provider in London that has achieved the same as us.

"The feedback from our clients in the inspection was excellent. A lot of those we care for have had to have stays in hospital, but on discharge they always want to come back to us.

"We always treat people with respect and have an established reputation for supporting their needs."

The company with 13 staff has a strong community ethos, partnering with other organisations in Birmingham. Mr Khan added his company was praised for the support it offered service users, its staff training programme and communication skills.

Debbie Le Quesne, Chief Executive of West Midlands Care Association, of which the firm is a member, said: "This is a great piece of news and for a small company to achieve this highest possible status is very rare."

Watson pledge on party 'split'

TOM Watson has vowed to do all he can to prevent 'a damaging split' in the Labour camp as he admitted the turmoil embroiling the party had caught him 'on the hop'.

The Labour deputy leader returned to Sandwell to chair a swiftly arranged meeting of regional party members in West Bromwich.

Explaining that he was glad to be back on home soil after a whirlwind week that has seen more than 60 resignations from Jeremy Corbyn's frontbench, Mr Watson said it was vital that Labour's membership 'received some reassurances' . He said: "Labour members understandably want to know where we go next. Negotiations are ongoing, but for the moment everyone has to be patient."

Trust open day at canal lock

THE Canal and River Trust is inviting people to a canalside open day at Smethwick No 1 Lock on Saturday from 10am to 4pm. There are guided walks at 11am and 2pm and Galton Valley Pumping Station will be open.

Chief coroner hails 'centre of excellence'

From left, Zafar Siddique, Peter Thornton QC, Councillor Susan Downing, Councillors Steve Eling and Syeda Khatun

THE Chief Coroner of England and Wales has hailed the new Black Country Coroner's court and offices in Oldbury as a 'centre of excellence'.

His Honour Judge Peter Thornton QC officially opened the new court at Jack Judge House last Thursday with Deputy Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Susan Downing. Senior Coroner Zafar Siddique and his team moved into Jack Judge House in April.

A project funded by Sandwell Council has seen £130,000 invested into new facilities. These include a new reception space, a dedicated waiting area for bereaved families and a new state-of-the-art digital court, which will allow for witnesses to give evidence in court by video link and for all future records to be held digitally.

Judge Thornton praised Sandwell Council – which designed and fitted out the new centre – and the three other Black Country councils, Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton, for joining together as one team.

He said: "I congratulate all the local authorities for their vision and good sense in bringing this service together and providing these fantastic facilities which will save money in the long-term. You have clearly created an accessible centre of excellence and the public will undoubtedly benefit."

He described the new centre as substantial and durable and "entirely appropriate" for bereaved families.

Judge Thornton said the average waiting time for inquests following deaths was eight weeks in the Black Country – compared to an England and Wales average of more than 20 weeks. Mr Siddique explained the Black Country service was now holding 700 inquests a year.

Children's home gets 'inadequate' rating

THE accessibility of a knife and punches being thrown between teenagers has seen a children's home receive an 'inadequate' rating from inspectors.

Charity St Christopher's, who run the Sandwell children's home in question, say they are disappointed by Ofsted's report highlighting what the inspector calls 'widespread failures' in the protection of the young residents.

In his report, inspector Mark Fitzgerald said: "Hazardous situations are not dealt with effectively. This failure places young people and staff at risk. For example, a young person was able to remove a kitchen knife from a cupboard that managers and staff believed was secure.

"Once the knife was retrieved, it was put back into the same insecure cupboard. The same young person was subsequently able to remove the same knife from the same cupboard the following day. The lack of learning from the original incident meant that the police were required to intervene to resolve the matter."

Seriousness

Another incident was described by the inspector, which also contributed to the home receiving the 'inadequate' rating.

"Recording of critical incidents does not reflect the true seriousness of the situation. For example, one young person punched another twice in the face. The staff described this as 'play fighting'," said Mr Fitzgerald. In addition he expressed concern that the vulnerable youngsters were able to lock themselves in the bathroom.

Other criticisms included an 'over-reliance on agency staff' and the state of the home in which the children are housed, with the report making reference to stained carpets, poor paintwork and mould in the bathroom. The exact location of the home, has been kept confidential by St Christopher's and Ofsted due to safeguarding reasons.

Ron Giddens, director of operations at St Christopher's, said: "It was unexpected and clearly very disappointing. We have been running children's homes for many years. The young people we care for are making good progress and have a very good relationship with staff. Those in care often come from difficult backgrounds, but we have been able to help many of them get into college, university and jobs."

Trip to paradise island is Lee's prize

Paint 360 recycled paint firm boss Lee Cole receives his prize from Richard and Holly Branson

A BLACK Country businessman is to visit tycoon Richard Branson's home on his Caribbeaan island paradise after winning a business competition.

Lee Cole will travel to Necker Island in the British Virgin Islands in May to learn business secrets from the Virgin group founder. The businessman who specialises in recycled paint won a Virgin Media Business-backed competition for firms prioritising environmental awareness and profit. Lee, of Cradley Heath business Paint 360, was named winner of the Impact Award at a glittering ceremony in London, where Richard Branson's eldest daughter Holly presented him with the personal invite to Necker Island.

"This is a fantastic opportunity as there is so much to learn from people like Richard Branson. I feel honoured by the award," said Lee.

It was one of four special awards recognising all kinds of businesses as part of Virgin Media Business VOOM 2016, the UK and Ireland's biggest and most valuable pitch competition.

Lee's firm employs 14 people and was hailed for not only producing high quality paint containing 80 per cent recycled content, but also its impressive business model with sales growing year on year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police concerned over missing man

AN ENGINEER working in the Black Country has gone missing after staying in an Oldbury hotel.

Martin Cadman was last seen on the morning of Tuesday, June 28,when he left the Travelodge Hotel on Wolverhampton Road in Oldbury.

Mr Cadman

The 33-year-old, who was staying in the Black Country for work, has not been in contact with his colleagues or family since and police say they are increasingly concerned for his welfare.

Mr Cadman is from Tunbridge Wells and is described as around 5ft 7in tall, of slim build, with short curly black hair and brown eyes.

He was last seen wearing dark blue denim jeans, tan brown boots, a blue Tshirt and a blue hoody with the words 'trill' on it.

Anyone with information should call Sandwell Police on 101 or call the Missing People charity on 116 000.

Unions in call over services

UNION members have urged the Government not to wrench Sandwell Council's failing children's services out of the authority's control.

UNISON, GMB and Unite met to voice their opposition to any proposals to privatise Sandwell's children's services. Discussions are under way about the future of the services after recommendations made by commissioner Eleanor Brazil.

Options under scrutiny are either to move children's social care to a voluntary trust with the council's co-operation, or to appoint an executive commissioner to oversee care. The final decision rests with Minister of State for Children and Families, Edward Timpson.

A showdown for Haden Hoe Down

YEE ha! fans of Country and Western music can don their cowboy boots and get over to Haden Hill Park for a good old hoe down on Sunday.

Staff at the Barrs Road attraction, are organising the free Haden Hoe Down from 12 noon until 4pm.

The afternoon will be filled with plenty of Country and Western music, courtesy of Ian Casey and Phase One Disco. Children's entertainment and a performance by New Age Creativity Dance Troupe are also lined up for an afternoon of fun. The tearoom will be open for light refreshments.

Taking sessions lead

DOG owners can take their canine friends to Warley Woods for training sessions on Saturday. Pawfect Dogsense holds classes between 1pm and 2pm and between 4pm and 5pm.

Places need to be booked by calling 0121 429 2440 or visiting the shop in the pavilion off Lightwoods Hill.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

A FORMER colleague who lives in France declares in a column that Britain is now "more isolated than ever." I can only refer her to that classic (and probably apocryphal) newspaper billboard: "Fog in the Channel – Continent Isolated."

I WOULD understand it if my wife sent me an email expressing reservations about Boris Johnson, like the one columnist Sarah Vine sent to her husband, the Tory MP and Brexit campaigner Michael Gove. I would sympathise if my wife pressed the wrong button and the email ended up in the public domain; these things happen. What any spouse would find hard to forgive is Vine's shrill use of capital letters in her email which reads: "One simple message: you MUST have SPECIFIC ASSURANCES from Boris OTHERWISE you cannot guarantee your support." Does Mr Gove enjoy being addressed like a particularly dim five-year-old?

THE mystery of why young people are so fond of the EU continues. In a matter of minutes on Tuesday evening, thousands of young people congregated in Westminster to demonstrate against Brexit. They claim to love the EU, but have they spoken to any young people from the south of the continent? Here in Britain, unemployment among the under-25s is only about 13 per cent. In Italy it is 39 per cent, in Spain 45.3 per cent and in Greece a shattering 48.9 per cent. The EU these British kids cherish has inflicted utter hopelessness on the youth of half a continent. You can use many adjectives to describe the EU, but not benevolent.

YOU know how it is when you don't think you've heard the whole story? Bank of England Governor Mark Carney says the bank is ready to provide £250, 000 million of additional funds to support financial markets. So where did he suddenly find that? Down the back of the sofa?

IN these uncertain post-referendum days, do you not feel the sand shifting beneath your feet? Like many Leavers, I watched the results coming in with mounting delight, followed by that "what have we done?" moment, followed in turn by growing pride and optimism. We are an amazing nation. We can do great things. But now there's a growing suspicion that Brexit is simply not going to happen. As I wrote on June 13, not entirely tongue-in-cheek: "Let me say it once again. If we vote In, we stay in the EU. If we vote Out, we stay in the EU. Simple as that." Time will tell.

A READER describes seeing a bloke using the urinal while eating a bacon sandwich. Too much information, thanks. Mind you, it does disprove that old belief about men being unable to multi-task.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Chain may close unprofitable outlets

THE owner of budget fashion chain Store Twenty One, which has five shops in the Black Country, has proposed a radical restructure of the retailer as it scrambles to avoid administration.

Indian manufacturing giant Alok Group has tabled a proposal for a company voluntary arrangement, which is understood to involve slashing its rent bill and potentially closing unprofitable stores. Store Twenty One operates 202 shops, including Bloxwich, Brierley Hill, Brownhills, Dudley and Smethwick, and employs more than 1,000 people across the UK. Restructuring experts AlixPartners have been tasked with finding a lifeline for the firm, which continues to grapple with tough trading on the high street.

Peter Saville, of AlixPartners, said: "We have been working closely with the directors of Store Twenty One for a number of weeks to consider options for the business and to chart a course for future success.

"Our focus now is on putting the restructuring plan into action by working closely with the management team and all other stakeholders in order to position the business to succeed in what is clearly an extremely competitive UK retail environment."

It was revealed at the beginning of June that the Store Twenty One would fall into administration at a court hearing on August 11 if a solution could not be found. The retailer's troubles come amid a bloodbath on the high street with more than 12,000 jobs at risk following the collapse of BHS and Austin Reed.

Judges say driver must be kept off the roads

By David Cosgrove

A BANNED driver who killed a soldier in Oldbury after speeding through a red light should be kept off the roads for 'many years', top judges have said.

Kasim Mohammed, aged 27, of Bearwood Road, Smethwick, slammed into Adam Hancox's Ford Ka on the Wolverhampton Road, in November 2014.

Kasim Mohammed

Adam Hancox

He admitted causing death by dangerous driving at Wolverhampton Crown Court and was jailed for 10 years and banned for 12 years last year. Last week, Mohammed claimed the ban was too long at the Court of Appeal in London and should be reduced to seven years.

But Lord Justice Gross rejected the plea – citing Mohammed's 'horrific' driving – but cut the disqualification by one year to take account of time Mohammed served in prison before he was sentenced.

Giving judgment, he said Mohammed had a long record of driving offences and had been banned on multiple occasions. The smash which killed Mr Hancox, a 26-year-old with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, was the latest in that long list of convictions.

Mohammed had been driving erratically and went through the red light at 60mph in an area with a 40mph limit. "The driving which caused the death involved a total disregard for the danger it posed to others," said the appeal judge. "His driving was horrific."

Mohammed's lawyers had argued it was wrong to ban him until he is 39 years old, when he will be out of prison and on licence by the age of 31. It could make it more difficult for him to rehabilitate, it was argued. But Lord Justice Gross, sitting with Mr Justice William Davis and Judge Gregory Dickinson QC, said the public needed protection from his driving.

Bus station safety is just the ticket

Sgt Dave Keasey of the Safer Travel police team, Councillor John McNicholas, assistant bus station manager Steve Lawrence, Councillor Richard Worrall of the transport delivery committee, and Mike Gardner

CRADLEY Heath bus station has been handed a national award after being praised for measures which deter crime and anti-social behaviour.

The facility was awarded safer bus station status after assessments by West Midlands Police and the British Parking Association. The checks include management and maintenance of the station ensuring there are appropriate levels of surveillance, lighting, signage and cleanliness.

Bosses said these criteria are known to reduce the opportunity for crime and the fear of crime, creating a safer environment for passengers.

Safer travel manager Mark Babington said: "This accreditation is a national first and demonstrates that we have in place measures which help to deter criminal activity and anti-social behaviour."

The station is owned and run by Transport for West Midlands, the transport arm of the newly-formed West Midlands Combined Authority. It was prepared for the assessment by the Safer Travel Partnership, which consists of TfWM, West Midlands Police, British Transport Police and transport operators.

Councillor John McNicholas, outgoing chairman of the region's transport delivery committee, said: "It is fantastic that not one but two of our bus stations have been recognised. This success is down to the hard work of station staff and members of the safer travel team who do so much to ensure all our facilities are of the highest and safest standard."

Mike Gardner of the British Parking Association said: "This is a relatively new scheme, but as more people use public transport than ever before, and the fact that we are moving towards more interconnected transport networks, the time was right to extend crime prevention schemes into these areas."

City stores covering up mirrors for changing

SHOPS in Birmingham's Bullring are covering up changing room mirrors after a survey found three-quarters of women are put off buying a new outfit by their reflection.

In a bid to make women feel more comfortable about their body image, centre owner Hammerson is running a trial mirror ban with stores over the next few days.

Not every store is taking part in the pilot project, which is only running at the group's Birmingham Bullring, Bristol Cabot Circus and Croydon Centrale centres, and some are just giving it a try for a day or even a few hours. The project does not extend to Hammerson's other Birmingham city centre shopping destination, the new Grand Central complex above New Street Station.

Alex Thomas, Hammerson's regional marketing manager, said: "One of the main reasons people come to our shopping centres is to buy clothes, whether that be a brand new wardrobe or a one off item for a special occasion. We want to ensure that everyone feels comfortable and confident when trying on clothes.

"We hope that women in particular will try something on and feel gorgeous and glamorous. Hopefully this will be a success and we can roll it out across our shopping centres for the summer."

The recent research found 71 per cent of women don't feel confident buying a new outfit after they've tried it on and looked in the changing room mirror.

Bosses in talks over holidays

COUNCIL bosses have said they are in talks with schools in the borough following term-time holiday debates.

It comes as the Isle of Wight Council are set to challenge a high court ruling not to fine a father who took his daughter on an unauthorised term-time holiday earlier this year.

When asked at a Sandwell Council cabinet meeting if a change in school term dates could be made at all, cabinet member for children's services, Councillor Simon Hackett said: "It is an issue that is raised across the country as the price of travel is extortionate during holiday time. We have spoke to schools in Sandwell but are waiting for the outcome nationally."

Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling added that there would not be a 'local easy solution' to the ongoing problem.

Free-entry park fun day due in Tipton

A FREE admission community fun day is being held in a Tipton park at the end of this month.

The event in Jubilee Park and at Jubilee Community Centre, Powis Avenue, on Sunday, July 31, will run from 12 noon to 5pm.

Thousands of trains are more than a minute late

MORE than 9,000 trains have departed one minute or more late from a Black Country railway station over a six month period. The figures come as part of an FOI request to Network Rail which shows that 9,688 services departed one minute or more late from Rowley Regis station out of the 25,098 that were planned to between November and May.

Around 176 services were also cancelled during that period. The most delayed service was the 9.52am Worcester Shrub Hill to Whitlocks End service on the November 26, 2015, which was 61 minutes late.

It comes as Network Rail were criticised earlier this year for its failure to properly maintain railway lines, which has led to a backlog of repairs.

Simon Masters, a spokesman for Network Rail, said: "Any delay is not acceptable however nine out of ten services arrive or depart within five minutes of the scheduled time. Network Rail constantly works with train operators to improve punctuality and reliability to provide passengers with the best possible level of service."

Rowley Regis railway station serves the town of Blackheath and the Rowley Regis area of Sandwell. It is located on the Birmingham to Worcester via Kidderminster Line.

Councillor David Hosell, who is cabinet member for highways and environment at Sandwell Council, said: "I think I would find it intolerable if I was waiting there for a long time. But I expect that National Rail would be doing their best to look into this."

Council pledge over property

SANDWELL Council chiefs have said they will bring in new measures to ensure council property is sold at market value, as the aftermath of the Wragge Report continues.

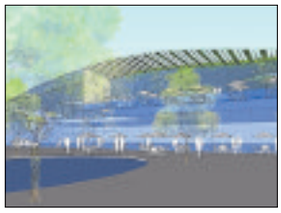
Audit committee members hope the plan will prevent council property being sold at a lower price than valued. There will be a review of all other council land sales which took place between 2011 and 2013 to compare the valuations with the sale prices.

The report scrutinised allegedly dodgy deals by former deputy leader Councillor Mahboob Hussain, who denies any wrongdoing. Some measures have already been implemented and approved including requiring an external valuation on sales and purchases involving council employees, members their relatives or associates.

A director will also have to sign off on any deal now. In addition extra checks have been introduced to the council's money laundering policy and a 'central register' has been created to record declarations of interests of councillors and authority staff.

Councillor Ann Jaron said: "This matter has blackened the reputation of all of us. Most of us keep our standards well within the code of conduct and work hard to do it."

Hidden M42 services plan revealed



An image shows the planned premises

HUNDREDS of new jobs could be created as plans for a new 'hidden' motorway services area in Solihull have been announced.

The proposed services will be built by Applegreen, an international operator of service stations, at junction 4 on M42 near Shirley and will remain hidden from the view of motorists.

The project has been designed by AFL Architects, who delivered the innovative new Gloucester Services on the M5, which has been praised for its approach to sustainability and impact on boosting local supply chains.

Like the Gloucestershire project, Applegreen aim to offer regional produce to the thousands of motorway users who pass by every day.

The proposals being developed includes a grass covered canopy design that shields the main amenity building and works with grass covered banks, to shield the facility from the M42 and from communities to the east of the site. And it is thought it could lead to around 300 jobs.

Des Stafford, Head of Developments UK for Applegreen, said: "We are committed to creating new jobs for local people to boost local economies. Alongside that, there will be opportunities for increased business for local traders.

"Our approach is to use new best practices, developed for those service areas that have set new standards, like Gloucestershire, to create service areas that are both welcoming, offer value and do not cause issues for our neighbours.

"Minimising our impact on the environment and the landscape is a priority for us and we will deliver this through great design."

Three stores on way at New Square, says boss

BOSSES at a shopping centre in West Bromwich have announced they are planning to add three new stores to the complex's retail mix.

Centre boss Steve Burr said 'significant negotiations' were underway to fill three of the four empty retail units left at New Square Shopping Centre – creating jobs in the process.

The companies in discussion with shopping centre bosses have not been disclosed but staff say it will bring new names to the town.

It comes after it was announced last week that footfall has increased by 3.5 million since opening in July 2013.

Plans to boost the centre's night time economy were also discussed as Mr Burr explained that their main aim was for 'continual future growth'.

Speaking to the Express & Star, he said: "There is potentially a lot more to come soon from New Square. We are currently in significant negotiations with three operators to add to our retail mix and fill three out of four empty units. I can say that they will be new names for West Bromwich too.

Complex

"New Square has over-achieved our expectations the past three years and put Sandwell as a main retail destination.

"Just last week we had a 14 per cent increase on like for like visitors as we welcomed 165,000 through the complex.

"Our aim is to now continually grow and provide the best quality for every type of shopper."

Visitor numbers to the shopping centre shot up by 25 per cent between January and September last year.

Last summer was the centre's busiest too – seeing a total of 650,000 shoppers flock to the complex each month in June, July and August – 12.5 per cent up on 2014.

Mr Burr continued: "At the time we opened this it was on the back of the biggest economic downfall and if we had known that was going to happen when we had been planning it 15 years previous then would we have gone ahead? Probably not. But the centre has done amazingly. We are offering the right mix and quality of fashion, food and entertainment along with all year-long events and raising money for Sandwell Hospital children's wards."

The complex's key retailers include Next, Outfit, Primark, Poundland and Peacocks.

Murals take pride of place at park

Artist William Burgess with the murals which have now been installed at Sandwell Park Farm

STUNNING artwork has been unveiled detailing the history of West Bromwich after it was left hidden away for decades.

Murals, created by William Burgess, from Sedgley, were originally installed in the old headquarters of the West Bromwich Building Society in 1978 and remained there up until earlier this year.

But as the company has moved HQ the artwork needed a new home, and organisers stepped in to save the artwork and move it to a new home at Sandwell Park Farm. Now the installation of the artwork is complete after a lengthy and delicate process of transporting the pieces to Sandwell Park Farm.

The colourful artwork was unveiled at launch event by organisers where dignitaries of West Bromwich attended.

Carol Hartill, secretary of Friends of Dartmouth Park, said: "It was a lovely event at the farm and now the artwork is in place it looks really good. The murals are displayed in the first room as you walk through the farm so everyone can get to see them. The artwork looks pretty spectacular. The artist of the murals, William Burgess, came along to to cut the ribbon at the launch."

The murals are made from clay and depict famous people and buildings, such as West Bromwich Town Hall, while another shows Oak House, and there is a mural of the Farley Clock Tower.

Albion legend Tony 'Bomber' Brown, also features on the artwork.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Factory found worth £400k

A CANNABIS factory housing plants worth more than £400,000 has been uncovered by police.

Officers discovered the drugs den in Springfield Road, Halesowen in the early hours of last Wednesday.

West Midlands police said officers from the town were carrying out local inquiries when they found six rooms in the property were being used to cultivate cannabis.

A total of 836 plants – worth £418,000 – were found in the building. So far no-one has been arrested in connection with the find, said police.

Motorpoint opens 50-job town site

A NEW car sales firm has opened in Oldbury creating 50 jobs. Motorpoint unveiled its latest supersite on Churchbridge Road last Friday.

The firm has invested more than £5 million in recent weeks on the five-acre site. John McConnell will be the general manager of the base.

It comes as around 45 jobs were lost as a result of the closure of The Car Select arm of Lex Autolease in May. Banking giant Lloyds confirmed that they would be shutting the site last month in a decision to shift emphasis on its car retail business.

Car and van in crash on bridge

A CRASH between a car and a van caused delays in Cradley Heath. The accident took place on Cradley Road, on the canal bridge between Chapel Street and Abingdon Road, just before 3pm on Friday.

No-one was injured during the two-vehicle collision, but a backlog of traffic was caused on Saltwells Road.

A West Midlands Ambulance spokesman said: "We received a call at 2.50pm to a car that had hit a van. It was a non-injury call out."

School left without water forced to shut

A PRIMARY school was forced to close its doors after it was left without water. Pupils at St John Bosco Catholic Primary School in Hill Top, West Bromwich, were told to stay at home last Thursday.

Sandwell Council were investigating the problem in the hope of re-opening the site as soon as possible.

Parents were informed on the Thursday morning that the school would be forced to close for the day and it re-opened on Friday.

Expressway closures

OVERNIGHT closures of the Aston Expressway heading out of Birmingham have begun.

The carriageway heading towards the M6 is being closed off for maintenance. There will be disruption on the route, including road closures during some periods, until October.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Gunning for names linked to dark past

THIS month we mark Black Country Day, a time to celebrate the countless industries which made this area the workshop of the world. From the Newcomen steam engine at Dudley, the glittering glassware of Wordsley and Kingswinford, the red, fiery furnaces of Bilston, Wednesbury, and Brierley Hill – the Black Country led the world.

Unless, it seems, you are the headmistress of a school at the heart of one of our historic manufacturing centres.

For centuries there has been an area around the outskirts of West Bromwich known as Guns Village. Its precise origins are uncertain, but around the 18th and 19th centuries it played a major role in Britain's munitions industry.

Ok, so some of the industrialists of the day weren't too fussy about where their weapons ended up – in many cases, the Confederate side of the American Civil War. Nevertheless, Guns Village played an important role in making West Bromwich the place it is today.

Dawn Cooper, the headmistress of Guns Village Primary School, believes the name has connotations with gun crime, and is inviting people to come up with a nice new touchy-feely name for the school. I suppose we should be grateful she didn't use the word 'inclusive', which usually accompanies such madcap proposals. But if you apply the same logic elsewhere, should Arsenal football club be renamed?

Terminal

Then there's Fighting Cocks in Wolverhampton, which of course is associated with blood-sports, not to mention the Bull Rings in Birmingham and Sedgley.

And what about Penny Lane, immortalised by The Beatles? The road, near John Lennon's childhood home, was named after John Penny, a leading figure in Liverpool's slave trade. I suppose Paul McCartney's lyrics could be rewritten, but somehow "In the road at the junction near the bus terminal at Smithdown Place there is a barber showing photographs" doesn't really work, does it? Maybe the song should be banned altogether. Suits me, I can't stand The Beatles.

But there is a serious side to all this. History is littered with bloody and unpalatable stories, from the rise and fall of the Roman Empire to the Second World War. But this modern, 'progressive' idea that everything unpleasant or offensive should be airbrushed from our past is disturbing in an age where university students demand 'safe spaces' lest they be subjected to opinions they dislike.

Guns Village will always be Guns Village, whatever the school thinks about it.

But perhaps if schools spent more time teaching youngsters about local history rather than shielding them from anything unpleasant, they would have more of a sense of identity and civic pride, and might even be less likely to turn to crime.

Lydia Davies, aged four and Milly Davies, eight, from Oldbury

John Langford and Billy Spake Mon at last year's event

Connor Groom, aged six and Richard Colley from Age of Penda

Flagging up brightest and best in our region

JUDITH HAWKINS reports on all that is going on to celebrate the best of the Black Country as festival fever takes off

GET out your Black Country flags to celebrate the best of the region, a packed programme of events have got under way to make everyone proud of their heritage.

With fairs to comedy nights, sporting events to historic tours, there's a huge variety of events on offer this month.

Organisers Steve Edwards and James Stevens are once again be at the helm of this Black Country extravaganza, and highlight that there is plenty to celebrate about the region, while also having a good time.

James said: "The Black Country is all about community, pride and having fun. Its people are the salt of the earth, we are full of pride for our historic region and the festival allows us all to come together showcase everything that is great about the Black Country."

In particular he is keen to once again bring the focus on the vital role the region had, and still has, to industry in the UK and abroad.

"The Industrial Revolution made the Black Country what it is today. It was the engine room of the world, everything was either made here or invented here. But there is a common misconception that industry in the Black Country is no more. So we need to once again shout about Black Country industry.

"I see so many business logos that incorporate the Black Country Flag. I saw a transport company the other day and the slogan was "Yow mek it, We tek it" with The Black Country Flag logo above it. We have the best Real Ale breweries in the world, our manufacturing industries are growing and food production in the Black Country goes worldwide. We still make everything here, including the kitchen sink."

It only seems right then that the spotlight is once again shining brightly on the Black Country, and the organisers are keen to ensure this year's festival surpasses the success of last year's festival, which saw well over 500 events that ranged in scale from barbecues for as little as 20 people, to football stadiums filled with over 20,000. Check out what's happening below. We are sure you will find something that whets your Black Country appetite.

Campaigner, Philip Tibbetts originally from Halesowen, wearing Black Country Tartan

Dudley

JULY 9: Noon to 4pm – Wordsley Festival will be at King George V park.
JULY 9: Noon to 4pm – Gornal fun day at the Recreation Ground in The Quarry Vale Street.
JULY 9: 9.30am to 4pm – The Black Country Fayre organised by the Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club takes place in Somers Square. Celebrating the best of the Black Country, with great food, entertainment and stalls selling local fayre. This is a showcase for all that's good in the Black Country and a day to be enjoyed by the whole family.
JULY 9: 9am to 5pm - Netherton Park Fun day.
JULY 9: 7.30pm - Black Country chamber choir Colla Voce will perform classical choral music with a professional chamber orchestra and professional baritone soloist at St. Michael's Church in Brierley Hill. Music by Mozart, Faure and Ola Gjeilo. Tickets £10 on the door.
JULY 9: 10.30am to 4pm – What's at the Top? Community Open Event at Top Church, Dudley, to explore new use options for St Thomas & St Lukes (known locally as Top Church). It will be a fun filled day for the family where you can come and make your own Top Hat, handle a bird of prey, learn about craft skills and the wonderful history and inspiring stories that can be told through the fabric of Top Church, and have your say on its future.
JULY 10: 1pm to 5pm – Brockmoor and Pensnett Black Country Fun Day at the Dell Stadium.
JULY 14: 10.30am or 1pm – Participate in a tour of the new White House Cone at the Museum of Glass, the Red House Glass Cone, Wordsley. Have a go at making a fused glass tile in our studio. Learn about why glass is made in the Black Country and where it is still being made! Booking essential. £5.75 per person.
JULY 15: Dudley Canal Trust celebrates Black Country Day with 45 minute tunnel trips Just 50p between 4pm to 7pm.
JULY 16: From 11am – thousands of people will be heading to Dudley for events in Stone Street Square.
JULY 16: Black Country Beer Day 2016. A public transport tour of some of the Black Country areas pubs. Organised by the Dudley & South Staffordshire CAMRA and Stourbridge & Halesowen CAMRA. Contact 1954steve.thompson@blueyonder.co.uk
JULY 18: Come support The Glassboys in The Worcester Senior Cup which will see Stourbridge FC take on Kidderminster Harriers FC at the War Memorial Athletic Ground on the High Street, Amblecote, Stourbridge.
JULY 23: Dudley Town FC versus Worcester City FC at The Dell Stadium. 3pm kick off.
JULY 29 to 31: The festival will close with the inaugural Dudley Beer Festival, a three day celebration of real ale at Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

Sandwell

JULY 14: 11am to 2pm – Free fun day for all the family at Jubilee Park Community Centre, Tipton. Have your picture taken with Paw Patrol. There will be traditional food tastings and light refreshments, crafts and face painting for kids, tombola and raffle prize draws and great clothes give away.
JULY 14: Noon to 2.30pm – at Great Bridge Library there will be a Black Country Variety Show featuring poetry, magic, music and comedy. Not to be missed – advance booking required
JULY 16: Oh Fest is taking place on Old Hill High Street, featuring parades, classic cars, loads of stalls and entertainment.
JULY 16: 10.30am to 12.30pm - Tipton Library will be holding a Black Country Fun Day with crafts, music and much more.
JULY 19: 2pm to 4pm – Great Bridge Library are holding a 'Turkey and Tinsel' event. Enjoy Early festive fun with an appearance from Santa, festive carols and a screening of the much-loved Turkey and Tinsel film by Martin Parr.
JULY 21 to 24: 'Bush Comedy Fest' at the Hollybush Arts Venue, Newtown Lane, Cradley Heath, Featuring over 50 comedians, free admission and real ale. From 7pm Thursday and Friday, and 2pm on Saturday and Sunday.
JULY 22: Top line-up of five comedians at Brook Street Community Centre, Tipton. Doors open at 7pm and tickets are £10. Contact steve.downing@hotmail.co.uk
JULY 25: 7pm to 9.30pm – Black Country Sports Quiz at Great Bridge Library.
JULY 29 to JULY 30: SHOUT! is a fun, fab and frivolous show that tracks five groovy girls as they come of age during those liberating days of the 60s that made England swing, with hits from Petula Clark, Cilla Black, Dusty Springfield and Lulu. This production will take place at Rowley Regis Learning Campus. Tickets are £12 and available online at www.shout2016.co.uk

Wolverhampton

JULY 14: Black Country Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with The Black Country Growth Hub at the Wolverhampton Business Solutions Centre invite you to join them for an early evening networking event to celebrate Black Country Day with businesses. The event will provide an ideal opportunity for local businesses to meet each other in a friendly networking environment and participate in various activities, from business games to competitions. There will also be an exciting chance to view historic images of the Black Country from the Express & Star photo archive project. Refreshments and a light buffet will be provided, with a menu of typical Black Country foods. It will take place at Wolverhampton Business Solutions Centre at the University of Wolverhampton Science Park on Glashier Drive. For further information and to book your free place visit bit.ly/1TX7wbU
JULY 14 to 17 JULY: Hayley and Dave, the new landlords at the Lych Gate Tavern in Wolverhampton town centre are hosting a cider and cheese festival.
JULY 16: 12pm to 3pm – The Angels Charity Events Fundraising Group will be holding a Flash Mob Dance Event on Bilston's Broad Street and High Street. It will be a Northern Soul/Motown/Mods/Ska dance event in aid of The Bluebell Children's Hospice. They want local people to come and join in the fun, have a dance and raise some funds to make the Black Country Day Festival a special one.
JULY 16: Bilston Black Country Festival.

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Brave to the common sense remainers

NOW that nonsense has prevailed, and we depart from our neighbours in the EU, perhaps the time has come for many people to ask why they voted to come out.

A friend and I have a theory; did people vote because they thought that all foreigners would instantly vanish? Or that we would whiz back to the 'good old days' when Empire Day was celebrated with Union Jacks wrapped around singers who stood like Britannia and sang in Hyde Park?

One excuse for not voting to remain was recently heard, and it is a sad one too said by an ex-service person. Young people in the Armed Forces, were killed in the last world war who should not have been and that is why we should vote to leave! People die in wars. Young and old, and it is one of the tragedies of war. But people sign up and know what may lay ahead.

Their deaths are no reason for neglecting our place in Europe. Brave men and women but they have no part in our future. With the stock market in continual movement perhaps people should consider what they have achieved in the name of sovereignty. The wilful damage being caused by people who, to be honest, were misled by crafty, jingoistic people, will not be repaired easily.

I guess that most of them are tending towards old age, and the remainder uninformed. The former will not be around to witness the worst of the outcome, and the latter will, as is their wont, find someone else to blame. Bravo to all you who voted to remain in Europe. It shows that common sense is still a British attribute.

C K MILLWARD
Tipton

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To find out more and sign up please email me on kirstyo@meningitisnow.org

KIRSTY OWEN-HAYWARD
Meningitis Now, Fern House, Bath Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 3TJ.
Email: kirstyo@meningitis-now.org

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Sandwell Chronicle,
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EMAIL
sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Inflated egos, wage packets and no skill

SO much has been said and written following England losing to Iceland at Euro 2016.

Most is aimed at the high self regard the majority of England players have of themselves, with inflated egos, inflated bank balances and bright shiny wags on their arms, starkly in contrast to that of the minute nation of Iceland.

Players unheard of, without mass media knowledge, showed more spirit, more passion and a greater effort to win.

Given England's long tradition of failing at tournaments, was it really such a shock as some are making out?

An old pro footballer once told me that he felt the media elevated the statuses of these players, making us all believe they were as good as they said they were in order to generate income; that's been proved right once again.

But part of me deep down gently nods in appreciation for the Icelandic team that David has once again slayed Goliath.

Maybe we can put to bed the talk of Rooney, Hart and co being world class; they are not even European class!

C A HARRISON
West Bromwich

Sturgeon should be supported

SO Nicola Sturgeon wants Scotland to break away from England and go it alone and stay in the EU as it's in her country's interests.

Well if that's what she wants let her have her way, but before this happens let us in England get back that which we can do in this country by our own workforce, i.e. we can build our own warships in our dockyards that are standing empty waiting for orders, not by Scottish shipyards at Clydebank.

Let us bring back our submarines from Faslane in Scotland also bring back our wonderful RAF planes and personnel from Lossiemouth, these submarines and aircraft can be re-sited here in England and bring the thousands of jobs with it.

So Nicola, before you try again to get Scottish Independence, remember that we English spen a lot of money in Scotland.

J WHEELER
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Specialist to target hayfever

WITH hayfever season comes the misery of runny noses, streaming eyes and chesty coughs.

Enter paediatrician Dr Nick Makwana who is hard at work in his clinic, helping children who suffer from the irritating symptoms of allergy to make their summers more bearable.

Working with renowned immunologist Dr Jonathan North, Dr Makwana has revolutionised the allergy service at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust (SWBH) since he took it over in 2007. Over the past nine years he's worked diligently to build up links with other hospitals across the UK, and now offers clinics that help desensitise children to milk and egg, which can generate harsh reactions, and to grass, to help improve the symptoms of hayfever.

Research has shown that hayfever in children and teenagers can have a significant effect on their exam grades. SWBH is currently the only Trust in the West Midlands to offer such interventions for an unlimited number of patients. Dr Makwana has plans to help standardise care for children with allergies region-wide.

As part of his role, he is a representative for the Midlands Paediatric Allergy Group, where he is involved in organising education for other trusts on treating and managing children with allergies.

Free family fun day

A MINI fun fair, car boot sale and pig roast are just some of the attractions on offer at a free family fun day organised by Brickhouse Residents Association in Rowley Regis on Sunday.

The event at the Brickhouse football and playing fields, Dudhill Road, Rowley Regis runs from noon until 5pm. Admission is free. To book a £5 pitch at the car boot sale or a stall, Nicola Bromley on 07710683060 or Councillor Sue Eaves on 07794088247.

Joy at homes plan for site plagued by traveller camps

£250,000 repairs bill for town church

Wesley Methodist Church in High Street, West Bromwich, which has undergone improvements

A WEST Bromwich church has undergone more than £250,000 worth of repairs in the last five years – keeping it at the heart of the community.

The Wesley Methodist Church in High Street holds events throughout the year as well as being a weekly meeting place for groups from across the Black Country.

The church set up the 291 Community Association five years ago, which has raised money for the church to have its roof, heating and electrics replaced. Ian Collett, who is church treasurer, explained how the church has a proven track record of community involvement, enabling members to get involved with a range of voluntary and community groups which use its premises for their work.

He said: "The past few years has seen major work take place at the church. The community association together with the church has spent in the region of £250,000 on the property over the last five years, many roofs have been replaced, the heating to the whole of the building has been completely replaced and much more. It has made it more modern, warm and watertight, which is great."

Giving a flavour of what the church has to offer, Mr Collett added: "It is an extremely active church that is at the heart of the community.

"We have the two services each Sunday and several groups which include the Boys' Brigade Company which has been meeting there since 1924."

For details about the church and the association's work visit www.291communityassociation.co.uk

UP to 60 houses could be built on the site of former tower blocks in Tipton which has been plagued by traveller camps since demolition of the flats.

The new development would see 58 two, three and four bedroom homes built on Bolton Court, in Ocker Hill Road. The derelict site has been used by travellers since demolition of the blocks of flats in 2011.

Councillor Stephen Jones, who represents the Princes End ward, said it would be great news for Tipton. He said: "I am pleased that these plans have been put forward for much needed housing in the area and I hope that prioritisation for local residents will be looked at."

Planning was originally granted for 65 new homes in November 2013 but approval changes were required by Sandwell Council in the layout, meaning it was put on hold.

Discussions

Kier, which is behind the build, states in the design and access statement: "We committed to providing a successful residential development to regenerate this brownfield site which is a credit to all parties involved.

"Further to the planning approval achieved on this site in November 2013, the scheme presented in this new planning application follows the same design principles established through this current approval, in addition to this, subsequent pre-application discussions with Sandwell Council have further informed the design approach resulting in a well considered scheme."

Planning documents state that the houses will be '100 per cent private sale'. An area of landscaped public open space will be located to the south-east of the site.

Councillor Ian Jones

The access into the site and internal road layout has remained the same as the previous planning approval, with the exception of the access through to Solari Close now being removed.

The majority of houses will be two-storey with some two and a half storey to 'provide variety to the street scene and feature gateway buildings on entry to the site'.

Councillor Ian Jones, who represents the Tipton Green ward, added: "In recent months there have been travellers on the site which has caused a nuisance. The flats used to be notorious on the Tipton skyline. For plans to have now been put forward for new homes is great."

Dealership drama as cars catch fire

A firefighter at the scene of the huge blaze after 40 cars at a dealership caught on fire

MORE than 40 vehicles went up in flames in a huge blaze at a car dealership. Firefighters spent hours tackling the inferno at British Car Auctions in Castle Bromwich.

The alarm was raised at 2am, last Wednesday, with around 30 firefighters arriving at the scene to battle the flames. Crews spent several hours fighting to get the blaze under control and prevent it from spreading to neighbouring properties.

Initially, it was reported that 20 cars and vans were on fire but flames quickly spread to engulf more vehicles.

Police and ambulance crews, including the Hazardous Area Response Team, were also at the scene but there were no reports of any injuries. The fire was out by 7am but crews returned later on to damp down and check for any isolated spots that may still be burning.

An investigation into the cause of the fire is under way.

A spokeswoman for West Midlands Fire Service said: "The fire has been extinguished.

"However, crews will return to the site later this morning to damp down and check for any hotspots."

Cannabis factories found every three days

A CANNABIS factory is raided by police in the Black Country every three days – according to new figures which show £9 million worth of drugs were seized in a year.

But while that value figure is down from the year before, the number of factories discovered shot up from 88 to 129.

West Midlands Police revealed they discovered £8,883,900 worth of cannabis in the region from April 2015 to April 2016.

But this was a decrease of more than £1million from the previous year, where police found £10,163,700 worth of cannabis for 2014/15.

However despite there being a drop in the value of cannabis found, the number of cannabis factories discovered has risen. In 2014/15 88 cannabis factories were discovered by police in the Black Country, but in 2015/16 there was 129 found – a 47 per cent increase.

The figures show cannabis factories are getting smaller but more common.

West Midlands Police has a force dedicated to tackling cannabis factories and the sale of the drug which is its

By Jamie Brassington

cannabis disposal team. The team carries out raids every day across the West Midlands, including the Black Country.

Police often highlight the dangers of the cultivation of cannabis.

An officer from the team said: "We attend cannabis farms on a daily basis to find the electricity has been dangerously and illegally abstracted."

The team say cannabis farms 'are very dangerous places.'

Officers will often find electricity meters bypassed and overloaded electrical circuits run close to water-filled pipes. Plants that are grown up stairs in buildings can cause floorboards to rot which presents the dangers of the floor collapsing.

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Chiefs going hi-tech for high street shops study

WALSALL and West Bromwich will be part of a hi-tech nationwide study into the changing face of the high street.

Around 1,000 sensors are being installed in 81 towns and cities across the UK as part of the biggest-ever investigation into how we shop and where we go.

The SmartStreetSensors are being installed by the Local Data Company (LDC) in partnership with University College London and the Consumer Data Research Centre to get information on what is called 'footfall' – the number of visits people make to their town centres.

LDC already carries out research into shop openings and closures nationwide.

The new devices will detect people visiting or passing particular shops and send the information to LDC's 'data warehouse' where it will be monitored for research and also shown on the maps.cdrc.ac.uk website.

Geographical

As well as Park Street in Walsall and a site in West Bromwich, sensors are being installed in Birmingham.

The organisers say: "The locations have been chosen in order to offer a wide geographical spread, differing demographic profiles and a range of town centre profiles (based on health and occupancy)."

With the rise of internet shopping in recent years the high street has changed as part of a consumer revolution. LDC data shows that last year multiple shop and leisure chains closed 1,043 stores on the high street, but 593 independent retailers opened up.

To try and get a handle on what is happening on the high streets of the UK, LDC has linked up with chains including Patisserie Valerie, Jack Wills, Tortilla, The Entertainer, Pizza Hut, Eurochange, Superdrug, Thorntons, Dixons Carphone, Itsu, Ed's Easy Diner, Pret a Manger, Aldi and Oxfam.

Rhys crops in for prom

Pupil Rhys Gaddu, with the farm vehicle. Picture: Jane Williams

A SCHOOL pupil picked an unusual way of getting to his school prom when he wowed onlookers by arriving in a combine harvester.

Aldridge School's Rhys Gaddu, aged 15, was dropped off at his glittering shindig at the Banks's Stadium in Walsall on Friday after being taken there by his boss Ian Kendall.

Mr Kendall, who employs Rhys at his Hayhead Farm shop on Longwood Lane, said of their arrival at Walsall Football Club's ground: "I can only speak as I saw. It had an effect, shall we say."

He said he saw some pupils arriving in a fire engine, another three groups turn up on a horse and cart and lots of other teenagers arriving in sports cars and limousines.

Have you seen any other unusual ways of pupils attending their proms this year? Have you gone in unusual transport yourself? Email picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk

Fire leaves ex-college building damaged

THE former Sandwell College has been badly damaged after a blaze ripped through it.

It is the third time in just over a year that the derelict building on Crocketts Lane, Smethwick, has been hit by fire. The cause of the latest blaze had not been yet confirmed.

Twenty-three firefighters were called out to tackle the blaze at the three-storey derelict building at 1am last Friday.

Crocketts Lane was shut during the operation. Nobody is believed to have been inside the building.

West Midlands Fire Service spokesman Matthew Smith, said: "We got a call at 1.04am. We sent five fire engines to the scene. It was a severe fire in the second floor of a three-storey building, formerly used as a college. We had a total of eight firefighters wearing breathing apparatus and five main water jets."

Crews remained at the scene until shortly after 3am. In August last year, 30 firefighters battled to control a blaze at the former campus.

Meanwhile, another fire caused damage to the empty building back in May. Fire

Report by Lisa Wright

crews received a 999 call to attend the campus at around 4.45am near to Smethwick Police Station.

The road was closed after flames tore through the property. On that occasion, firefighters used breathing apparatus to allow them to get close to the building and used hoses and a water jet to quell the flames.

Fire Service spokesman Neil Spencer said the flames affected an area measuring 200ft by 114ft at the site.

It is believed that there may have been people inside the empty property at the beginning of the fire but they then left. The Smethwick campus closed when college courses were centralised by the opening of a £77m campus in West Bromwich in 2012.

Police release CCTV image after attack

The suspect seen running off following an attack on an elderly woman who was dragged along the ground

POLICE have released a CCTV image of a man they would like to speak to in connection with an attack on an elderly woman in Birmingham.

The 74-year-old woman was grabbed and dragged along the ground as she crossed Rookery Road, Handsworth, around 3.47pm on June 14. Police say a man came up behind her and grabbed her handbag, before trying to run off.

When the woman tried to hang onto her bag, the man dragged her into the road. The woman lost her footing and was pulled across the road, before hitting an island kerb.

The man, described as black and wearing a black hooded jacket – which appears as green on the CCTV camera – then ran off with her bag towards Albert Road.

The woman was taken to hospital following the robbery, where she was treated for serious bruising.

Det Con Laurence Green from Force CID said: "This was a nasty attack on a vulnerable victim. Officers are hoping someone may have seen the robbery or have information as to who the man is. If anyone has any information please could they contact us on 101."

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, July 7, 2016

Making a statement with vintage additions

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

By John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips

SOMETIMES it's nice to buy an antique just because it's a talking point – and these are the kind of vintage items that look good displayed in a sitting room, dining room or hallway where all of your visitors will spot it!

I'm not talking suits of armour (although, of course, this is possible, albeit reproduction), I mean any kind of item that interests people.

This can be anything from a framed set of old cigarette cards to some Beatles memorabilia, from a pith helmet to a 1930s radio.

People often buy pieces at auction because they are simply talking points: a Victorian rocking horse, a very unusual piece of furniture, an architectural item that came from a unique property.

Even items such as an old-fashioned telephone, pieces of vintage glass, those lovely 1930s 'piano babies', all provide a focal point for conversation and can actually set the tone of a room.

And if you buy one unusual item, chances are you will buy more of the same – thereby creating a theme.

If you buy a vintage telephone for display on a desk in a home office, for example, it might be nice to add an old typewriter or even something more elaborate such as a 1950s mini-switchboard.

I've also seen a fabulous collection of old model cars gathered together on an office coffee table, they looked really good and each one had been bought for a specific reason, a replica of a 'first car', a 'dream car' or a movie favourite.

Rocking horses are often bought by adults to stand in various rooms around the home – and other children's toys are popular for bedrooms.

China dolls may look a bit spooky with their wide glass eyes but they often appear sitting prettily on a bedroom cupboard, as do vintage teddy bears and gollies.

These talking points can range from the sublime, such as a replica model of a Roman senator to the downright strange . . . I have seen a coffee table made from a glass case containing a small stuffed shark!

And for the more traditional coffee table, you could have on display some interesting vintage books, such as the first edition of a classic, even a signed copy of the same, or one that is of particular significance – a while ago we sold a copy of Charlotte Bronte's novel Villette, attributed to her original pen name Currer Bell.

You don't have to spend a fortune, stick to a budget but make your home unique with a few vintage additions.

Perry and Phillips Auctioneers holds sales of antiques and collectables on the first Tuesday of each month. Valuation days, for sale items only, are held every Wednesday at the Mill Street saleroom, in Low Town, Bridgnorth, from 10am until 4pm.

Everyone can be a beach babe this summer

Janet models swimwear of the 60s

THIS week I went into a BHS store, it was incredibly sad, another of our high street shops closing, already the fixtures and fittings being removed and the clothing stock hanging on moveable rails, sale signs adorning every available space.

As I browsed the varied reduced price garments I came across a range of swimwear that really caught my eye. Bright marine blues and greens, stripes, zigzags and plains, highlighted with white and black contrast, items that mixed and matched beautifully.

Swimwear today is so practical, its styling moving back in time to our grandmother's era, less tiny triangle bikinis and more tankinis, full swimsuits and swimming skirts and shorts. These particular items were a lovely soft lycra, fully lined and with support in all the right areas. I would be covering my body from just below shoulder to my thigh and at very little cost, suddenly the prospect of a summer holiday by the pool seemed more inviting……our men however are back to wearing the trendiest of Speedos, not always the best choice, but definitely the swimwear of now. Look on their site www.speedo.co.uk to

STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis

see more about the amazing technology held in a small pair of trunks.

In the early part of the 20th century costumes were made of wool, heavy, 'expanding' and uncomfortable when wet, bathing shoes completed the ensemble. The changing cabin would be dragged onto the beach so, once changed, the swimmer was not far from the water and therefore protected their dignity. Prior to the 1930s our swimwear would have been knitted at home, however professional swimmers found silk suits a lighter option and then when rayon was invented it was the beginning of fabric technology changing what we wore when indulging in the varied watersports and beach pastimes. The bikini was designed in 1946 by Louis Reard (named after Bikini Atoll in the South Pacific where atomic bomb testing had taken place)

In the 1950s swimming costumes were worn as part of the 'Beauty Contest' stages, from Butlins holidays to the high profile 'Miss World' on television, showing off the shapely figure of the contestant, no longer something we find fashionable. As a child, in the early 60s, I remember my friend wearing a swimming costume crocheted by her mother, I thankfully had a blue nylon shirred fabric number with frills on the edges.

Costumes with UV protection from the sun are now available to help protect us from those dangerous rays. We can buy compression items to aid in the recovery of our muscles after exercise and we can add full areas of support to improve our shape with excellent stretch and contouring. Quick drying and chlorine resistant is also standard in today's garments.

There is something available for everyone, good fitting, easy to wear, stylish garments to enjoy your summer beach body 2016.

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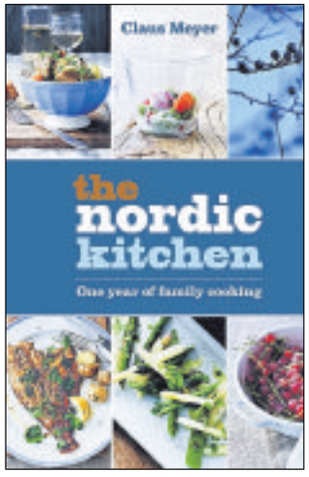
Seared hangar steak with frisee lettuce

Claus Meyer is now living in New York

Fish cakes with tartare sauce is one of the recipes in the new book

No nonsense from top Nordic food champion



The book, priced £25, is available now

FRESH from an appearance on Saturday Kitchen, Claus Meyer is in a sea-blue three-piece suit and has spent the morning chopping up a raw inner-thigh of beef to make beetroot tartar with horseradish.

The restaurateur, businessman and chef is what you'd call supremely Nordic – from his no-nonsense attitude, to his chiselled, Viking cheekbones.

That and the fact he spearheaded the Nordic cuisine food movement and co-founded Noma, widely considered the best restaurant in the world.

"It's difficult to compare anything with Noma," he muses, "but it wasn't my achievement alone, I had a very good chef and friend and partner with me down the road in Rene [Redzepi], and he grew a lot through the project. He was an unknown chef when we started, now he's the most known chef in the whole world."

Noma sent Meyer stratospheric in the world of food, while driving the New Nordic Cuisine movement, and developing a manifesto for it in 2004 saw him define and develop a whole new way of thinking about and working with food in Denmark, focusing on simplicity, seasonality and freshness.

By Ella Walker

"Not only did we launch the Nordic Cuisine," he says proudly, "we also launched the concept of any region having the potential – not only the right – but also the possibility, to suddenly capture the moment."

However, Meyer's personal ideas on food, and his recipes for home cooks, have only just become available in the UK.

When he first wrote The Nordic Kitchen, it was at a time where, he explains, having launched Noma and Nordic Cuisine, he "wanted to translate all the culinary ideas and bring them into a home cooking context".

Dressing

Meyer can seem severe, and the recipes spare, but, he says: "I consider my food, or any food, like a draft – people should not be afraid to change the recipes slightly, and they should definitely season it so it works for them. Seasoning food is very important, chopping up things and putting them in a salad bowl is so easy, but getting the dressing right? It's so important."

Roughly 10 months ago, the 52-year-old moved with his wife, three daughters and two dogs to New York, and although he's "not missing Denmark as much as I would have expected", his new project is perhaps his most ambitious to date. The plan is to open a Nordic brasserie and food hall in Manhattan's Grand Central Terminal.

"It's one thing speaking about a project, inventing it, financing it and looking at all the details, but when it starts becoming an operation that runs all day long, all year long, it's a different animal," Meyer explains.

"So I'm really scared – but I'm also looking forward to get into it. I'm tired of planning and designing it, spending 20 million US dollars getting it up and running, I just want to see that animal.

"It's like training a racehorse: you're in the training field for years, and you want that horse to run."

As you'd imagine, he gets very few days off, but when he does, Meyer says: "I play tennis and do sport with my girls, I read a little bit, I try and discover New York. But besides cooking, running this show, being there for the family, being present, whether that means making an ice-cream with the ice-cream machine, going for a walk with the dogs in the park, watching a nice film - in between those very, very down-to-earth, basic family things, like taking a long breakfast together on a Sunday morning, there is not much time.

"Having brunch is not a passion, but you have to have that in your life somewhere."

In safe hands for another trust win

From left, Sandwell Leisure Trust board member Val McFarland, instructor Josie Rikards, and Councillor Richard Marshall

SANDWELL Leisure Trust has been recognised with an award for safety, adding another accolade to the list.

SLT has landed the Royal Society for the Provention of Accident's coveted President's Award, as a result of an impressive 10 consecutive Golds, and is the first leisure trust nationwide to achieve this distinction.

Council and trust officials will be presented with the award during a glittering ceremony at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel next Wednesday and Thursday, as the event marks its diamond (60th) anniversary.

The RoSPA Awards not only focus on

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

commitment to accident and ill-health prevention, but occupational health and safety management systems, including practices like leadership and workforce involvement.

Paul Slater, Chief Executive for Sandwell Leisure Trust, says: "We are extremely honoured to receive this nationally recognised award for health and safety, whose high standards the trust has successfully maintained for the last 10 years.

"We take a sensible approach to health and safety, focusing on how the real risks are managed, so that customers are able to experience and enjoy activities in safety – and our staff can also work in a consistently safe environment."

Councillor Richard Marshall, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for leisure, said: "Providing a safe environment for Sandwell residents to enjoy their leisure time will always be our highest priority, so this accolade clearly demonstrates SLT's and the council's commitment to do this."

If you would like to join this award winning organisation, SLT is currently recruiting across sites in Sandwell. Full details of all vacancies can be found at www.slt-leisure.co.uk/jobs

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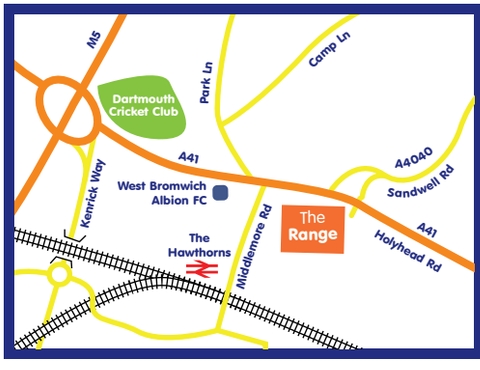

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Chain reaction as town festival is marching on

HUNDREDS of people gathered in Cradley Heath to mark a landmark event in the history of equal rights.

The annual Chainmakers Festival took over High Street in the town on Saturday.

It commemorated the 1910 Women Chainmakers' Strike led by Mary Macarthur and the women of Cradley Heath. A mural of the town's significant buildings and personalities, painted by local artists Maren Lilley, was also unveiled on the bypass at the Fox Oak Street Business Units as part of the event.

Market stalls, fairground rides, live music, dance and speeches took place.

Dudley Council's cabinet member for environmental services, Hilary Bills, said the event had been a fantastic celebration of what the strike achieved more than 100 years ago.

She said: "I've been involved with the festival since 2004 and it's always good to re-enact the march the women did back in 1910.

Celebrate

"We've found our proper home now – the High Street is Cradley Heath where Mary Macarthur and the women actually made their stand.

"It's important to celebrate. It is growing every year and especially since we took it back to Cradley Heath. I bumped into quite a few people who said 'my grandmother or great-grandmother was a chainmaker'."

The strike was pivotal in labour history and a significant step in the development of a universal minimum wage.

During a visit to Empire Theatre in Cradley Heath, union leader Macarthur saw poverty and was shocked by the infant mortality rate.

After she persuaded chainmaker bosses to set a minimum wage, she was left angry when they found a loophole that meant that the wage increase could be held back by nine months.

This allowed them to stockpile chain and then lay off workers before the increase.

In response, Macarthur organised strikes at chainmakers, the first being in Graingers Lane. The strike lasted 10 weeks until employers finally agreed to meet their demands.

Also at the event was author Tony Barnsley, who was selling his book Martha's Story, based on the real-life diary of an 11-year-old girl who made chain with her family in the early 20th century.

As part of the festival artist Maren Lilley, unveils her mural on Foxoak Street

The stalls at the Cradley Heath event

Tony Barnsley with book Martha's Story

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The Sandwell Chronicle needs local news stories for your local paper for you the local reader.
Please call the chronicle team on 01902 319 588

£11.7m training site for skills in pipeline

PLANS for an £11.7 million manufacturing training centre in Tipton have been formally submitted.

The skills centre is proposed to be built at the former Thomas Dudley site off Tipton Road, Tividale, in collaboration with the University of Wolverhampton.

If built the facility will offer specialist training in toolmaking, foundry skills, pattern making and metal forming and will become the latest training centre to launch in Dudley following several new Dudley College campuses in recent years.

Artist's impressions show a modern-looking building, with the main workshop decked out in the colours of the Black Country flag. The centre is due to open in 2017 and it is hoped it will become the new institute of technology in the Black Country.

The scheme received £7.6 million of crucial funding was allocated by The Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) through its Growth Deal. It is now due to go before Sandwell Council's planning committee in the next few weeks.

Ninder Johal, an LEP board member, said: "It's great to see the plans have gone in. As we all know the Black Country has a long tradition of manufacturing excellence and we have seen a recent renaissance in the area."

Bosses behind the scheme were keen to include the Black Country flag colours of black, red and white which have become so popular and identifiable with the region in recent years.

A design statement states: "The proposed colour scheme for the workshop draws inspiration from the Black Country flag. We believe this reference will engender a sense of pride for the local community and make this an iconic building with an already proud industrial landscape."

The proposed manufacturing training centre, in Black Country flag colours

Travolta trip tickets on sale

FANS of Hollywood megastar John Travolta are being offered the chance to see him in the flesh in Birmingham – with top meet-and-greet packages costing as much as £999.

The star of Grease and Pulp Fiction will be taking part in a Q&A at the ICC on Saturday, September 24.

Standard tickets for the black tie event are available for £45 but additional extras will set back fans a lot more. A photo with the actor will cost an extra £345. The platinum package - which includes a photo and the chance to meet Travolta costs £999.

Travolta will sit down with television presenter Jenni Falconer to talk about his life and career. He recently appeared in the BBC hit drama The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Drama. The event is being organised by the Olexy Group, the same firm which brought Arnold Schwarzenegger to Birmingham earlier this year.

Tickets are available from olexygroup.com

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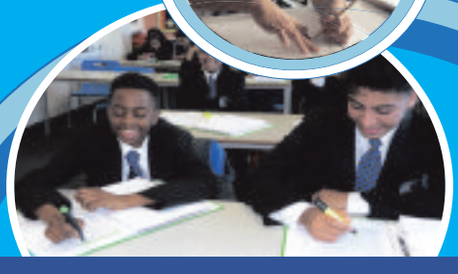

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Speeding hotspots include top route

THE most prolific roads where motorists have been caught speeding in the Black Country have been revealed, with a Wednesbury route among them.

One road in Halesowen clocked up almost 1,000 offenders. On another a motorist was caught driving at 92mph, on the northbound carriageway of the 40mph A4123 Birmingham New Road.

A total of 970 motorists caught were on the A456 Manor Way in Halesowen, which topped the list of cameras across the region which were activated the most.

Second on the list of most triggered mobile cameras was the A459 Halesowen Road in Old Hill with 505 activations. Third was Henwood Road northbound in Wolverhampton, which was activated on 428 occasions.The list of the highest speeds caught on camera in 2015-16 is topped by the northbound A4123 Birmingham New Road with one driver tearing along at 92mph. Second is the A4041 Queslett Road in Great Barr which someone was caught driving at 87mph on.

Coming in third was a driver clocked at 81mph on the A41 Black Country New Road in Wednesbury, in a 40mph stretch, while a driver was captured doing 78mph southbound on the same road near the Swan Roundabout.

FOCUS ON WEDNESBURY

Help my little Sam to walk, says mother in £30k hopes

A FUNDRAISING mission has begun to raise up to £30,000 to help a little boy from Wednesbury undergo a life-changing operation to help him to walk.

Four-year-old Sam Fellows has Deplegic Cerebral Palsy meaning he suffers with muscle stiffness and can't play with friends and six-year-old sister, Lisa.

REPORT BY CLARE

Sam was diagnosed with the rare condition in September 2013 but now doctors have considered him for a special selective dorsal rhizotomy (SDR) operation used to improve muscles in cerebral palsy.

But despite being referred to Leeds Hospital, funding for the operation was pulled in March.

Now a campaign by parents Jen and Simon has got under way to raise as much money as possible to grant Sam his wish to walk. Mrs Fellows, aged 36, explained about the operation: "They would shave the nerves in his spine and enable him to make it easier to walk.

"We were incredibly sad when NHS England pulled the funding in March and said it could take up to two years to sort anything out. So to start this fundraising campaign means that Sam will undergo an assessment and then hopefully fund it privately.

"We are on about £3,000 at the minute but every little helps."

Mrs Fellows said: "Sam was born in October 2011, he was two weeks late. He arrived by C-section.

"But we started to notice a few development issues to do with his mobility and Sam was referred to Birmingham Children's Hospital mid-2013 just before we got married. Two days before Christmas we had the news that Sam had got Deplegic Cerebral Palsy."

A yellow themed event was held in Wednesbury town centre to raise awareness and let people meet Sam. Other events in the pipeline include a stall at Wednesbury Carnival on Saturday and an auction and entertainment night in Dudley in August.

To donate to Sam's Go Fund Me account visit www.gofundme.com/22p7ax7s

Sam Fellows, aged four, who has Deplegic Cerebral Palsy with his mother Jen who is fundraising for him

Soft drinks firm eyes up nations

A WEDNESBURY soft drinks firm is looking to export to China and the Middle East. Purity Soft Drinks has been working with the Black Country UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) and Black Country Chamber of Commerce.

Purity is a leading manufacturer of healthier soft drinks, specialising in juices and juice drinks packaged in modern and innovative packaging formats, PET, premium glass, and multipacks.

Heather Crocker, Black Country international trade adviser, said: "I started working with Susie Mayhew, international sales manager at Purity Soft Drinks, to identify target markets for exports.

"The company had initially considered the US but following market research the Middle East and China were identified as key markets."

Wednesbury Metro plans

EXTENSIONS to the Midland Metro, including a potential one from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill, are now being led by a new alliance, which launched this week.

The Midland Metro Alliance will see the same team of planning, design and construction specialists building four new tram extensions on behalf of the new West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).

A Wolverhampton extension is now going ahead.

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Totally Tina

Friday, 7.30pm
Robin 2, Bilston
Described as Simply The Best tribute to Tina Turner, Justine Riddoch (above as Tina) headlined last year's Glaston-budget Festival and now brings her dynamic show to the Black Country.
Visit **www.therobin.co.uk**

Chaplin

Thursday, 7.30pm
New Alexandra Theatre, B'ham
A musical play looking at the silent movie star's life in the music halls and Hollywood with Bryan Hodgson as Chaplin (above) and Coronation Street's Steven Arnold as his brother.
Visit **www.atgtickets.com/shows**

Matt Cardle

Monday, 7pm
The Glee Club, B'ham
The 33-year-old X Factor 2010 winner from Southampton is now a veteran of three albums, defining himself as a songwriter as well as singer.
See **www.glee.co.uk/venues/birmingham**

Mostly Jazz, Funk & Soul Festival

Friday to Sunday
Moseley Park, Birmingham
Actor and DJ Craig Charles (pictured) is among a funktastic line-up including George Clinton with Parliament Funkadelic, De La Soul, Grandmaster Flash, Average White Band and more.
See **mostlyjazz.co.uk**

POP

Matt Cardle
Mon at 8pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Scott Matthews
Tue at 7.30pm - 11pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
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Call 0871 472 0400

Arijit Singh
Tomorrow at 7pm,
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham,
B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Endorphinmachine: Prince Tribute Act
Tomorrow,
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Charity Event In The Memory Of The Late Chelsea Jackson
Sun at 5.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
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Call 01902 401211

Totally Tina: Tina Turner Tribute
Tonight at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
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Call 01902 401211

Orchestras, Ensemble & Chamber, Rock, Pop And Urban
Tomorrow at 10.15am,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

ROCK & METAL

Paul Carrack
Tomorrow at 7.30pm, £28.50 - £38.50
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Sounds Of The Sixties
Tonight,
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Amped @The Slade Rooms
Tonight at 7.30pm,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

The Billy Fury Years Show: Billy Fury Tribute
Tomorrow at 7.30pm, £18.50
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Rock 'n' Roll Magic
Sun at 3pm - 6pm,
fletchers bar, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7SA.
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KRS-One
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Birmingham, B5 6DY.
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Bunny Wailer & Max Romeo
(CANCELLED) Tomorrow - Sun at 10pm - 3.30am,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

JAZZ, BLUES, SOUL FUNK & MOTOWN

Jazzlines Free Gigs: The Weave
Tonight at 5pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

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Sun at 6pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Music For Youth National Festival
Tonight, tomorrow,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Blake
Sun at 7.30pm - 9pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

CBSO 2015-16 Falstaff
Wed at 7pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

CLUBBING

Mostly Jazz Festival Afterparty: DJ Maseo
Tonight - tomorrow, at 10pm - 3am,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Propaganda
Tonight - Tomorrow at 10.30pm - 3.30am,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

DJ Luck and MC Neat
Tomorrow - Sun at 9pm - 3am,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

All Hands On Decks
Tonight at 8pm,
Light House, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1HT.
Call 01902 716055

FESTIVALS

On The Edge 2016
Today - tomorrow,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Mostly Jazz, Funk & Soul Festival
Today - Sun,
Moseley Park,
Birmingham,
B13 8DD.
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B9 4AA.
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Cadbury Character Weekend
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Bournville,
Birmingham,
B30 2LU.
Call 0844 880 7667

Junior Jesters #3
Sun at 4pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

An Audience With Martin Kemp
Wed at 8.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Young Artists
Tomorrow at 1pm - 3pm,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

Approaches To Aspects Of Drawing
Tomorrow at 11am - 4pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Great British Food Festival
Tomorrow at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm,
The Shugborough Estate, Milford,
near Stafford,
ST17 0XB.
Call 01889 881388

Kings Heath Food Assembly
Tue at 7.30pm - 9pm,
Hare & Hounds,
Kings Heath,
Birmingham,
B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

COMEDY

Severn Jesters #46
Sun at 8pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

Andrew Lawrence: Uncensored
Tonight at 7pm - 10.30pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Zoe Lyons: Little Misfit
Tomorrow at 8pm,
The Old Rep Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DY.
Call 0121 605 5116

Wifi Wars
Sun at 1.15pm, 6.15pm,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Ben Hanlin: Trickhead: Edinburgh Preview
Tonight at 8pm,
The Old Rep Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DY.
Call 0121 605 5116

EdinBrum Previews: Lloyd Langford & Peter Brush
Thu at 7.30pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Thursday Night Comedy Carousel
Thu at 8pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

The Best In Live Stand-up Comedy
Tonight at 8.15pm, Tomorrow at 8.15pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Mark Watson: I'm Not Here
Tomorrow at 8pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Joe Lycett: That's The Way, A-Ha A-Ha, Joe Lycett
Sun at 8pm, £10 - £12
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

THEATRE

Heartbeat
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Hot Ginger's Swing Dance Classes
Tomorrow at 1pm - 5pm,
Hare & Hounds,
Kings Heath,
Birmingham,
B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Dogfight
Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm,
Thu at 7.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Doreen's Grand Night Out
Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Back To Bacharach
Thu at 7.30pm,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Let's Go To The Movies: Telford Academy Of Performing Arts
Tomorrow at 1pm, 5.30pm,
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

The Musicals: TACT
Thu at 7.30pm,
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

Why Do Hyenas Have Shorter Back Legs Than Front Legs And Why Do Monkeys Have Bare Bottoms?
Tomorrow at 11am, 4.30pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Twenty-Five Years At CHB Performance Arts
Sun at 2.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Reinraumraus
Tomorrow at 11.30am, 2.30pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Elmhurst Dance School
Thu at 7pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

The Sitcom Trials
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Chaplin: The Charlie Chaplin Story
Wed at 7.30pm,
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Les Miserables: School Edition: Get Your Wigle On
Thu at 7.30pm,
Theatre Severn,
Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Musical Youth Theatre Stafford: Bugsy Malone
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Music fans will head to the Forest

Fans predict a musical riot when the Kaiser Chiefs, fronted by Ricky Wilson, play Cannock Chase on Sunday

"IF you go down to the woods this summer, you're sure of a big surprise." So says Kaiser Chiefs frontman Ricky Wilson as his band plays at this weekend's Forest Live concerts on Cannock Chase.

"We've always loved to play outdoors. We've done fields, parks, farms, rooftops, beaches and back gardens, but this will be the first time we've played in a forest," said the 38-year-old Keighley-born singer, who is the most successful judge on TV's The Voice. Kaiser Chiefs are currently working on album number six, while new single Parachute is out on October 7.

Support for the KCs' gig on Sunday comes from Vitamin and Spring King with the concert from 7pm being the last of three sold-out events in the forest this weekend.

Singer-songwriter James Bay is tomorrow night's (Friday) headline act. Fans of the 2016 Brit Award Best Male Artist will be able to hear tracks from top-selling album Chaos and the Calm, including Hold Back The River. Support by the trio Joseph at 7.45pm.

Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott are Saturday's main attraction with songs from second album Wisdom, Laughter and Lines, as well as favourites from The Beautiful South. Support comes from Devlin Brothers (6.50pm) followed by Leisure Society.

Doreen has a Grand plan

BLACK Country comedy character Doreen Tipton is likely to give her thoughts on how to sort out Brexit Britain with her shows at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Wednesday and Thursday, July 13 and 14.

Following the EU Referendum, Doreen has broken into the world of politics with hilarious consequences via her own political broadcast, that has become an online hit.

As leader of the Yam Yam Party she has decided to stand up for the 'little folk' now the 'un-erected bureauprats' have left the Black Country 'without a paddle'.

She talks about how the vote has hit the markets – mainly Bilston and Brierley Hill markets – and how it has alienated young people 'after a quarter of them got out of bed to vote'.

Her party has three pledges – to never lie, use no confusing statistics and sort out immigration by building a wall around the Black Country to keep out the Brummies.

Following on from the success of Doreen: The Movie and now her own online TV channel – Doreen TV – the character, created by actress Gill Jordan and writer David Tristram, has been selling out venues from Bewdley to Brum on her Grand Night Out tour.

With a mixture of satirical stand-up (or sit-down, when she needs a rest), music and video surprises, Doreen will assess the state of the nation as only she can. The show is recommended for over-15s and tickets cost from £11.50 to £16.50. See www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01902 429212.

Falstaff opera will end CBSO season

THE City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra finishes its latest season with a performance of Verdi's comic opera Falstaff.

The concert in Symphony Hall, Birmingham, is on Wednesday, July 13 at 7pm. Tickets are £21 to £48 for the concert in which the CBSO is joined by singer Ambrogio Maestri in the title role and the CBSO Chorus. It is being sung in Italian.

Meanwhile, the Music For Youth National Festival continues in and around the Symphony Hall. Hear music all day by brass and wind bands today (Thursday) and tomorrow, including Cannock Performing Arts Centre Wind Band on Friday.

Showcase stage for young dance talent

STUDENTS at the Elmhurst School of Dance, the associate ballet school to Birmingham Royal Ballet, will be performing a Summer show at Birmingham Rep on July 14, 15 and 16.

Performed in association with Birmingham Royal Ballet, Summer Syncopation will showcase the talents of students aged 11 to 19 years from the school in Edgbaston.

Performances embrace a range of dance styles from classical to hip hop via flamenco and jazz. It will include one-act ballet Elite Syncopations by Kenneth MacMillan. For tickets visit birmingham-rep.co.uk or call 0121 236 4455.

Scott tops bill at songwriter festival

SINGER-SONGWRITER Scott Matthews headlines a mini-festival in his home city on Saturday, at the Banstock Songwriter's Garden party.

From 4 to 10pm Bantock Park, on Finchfield Road, Wolverhampton, will host an impressive line-up of talented musicians.

The event starts with Sharodene and continues with Gary O'Dea, Saltflat, Ryan Evans, Under A Banner, Alex Ohm, Terry & Gerry, with Matthews – who has released four studio albums – taking the stage at 9pm.

For tickets see www.wolvescivic.co.uk or call 0870 320 7000.

CHOICE

Santiago Cabrera

The Musketeers (BBC1, 8.30pm)
The day of reckoning arrives for the swashbuckling heroes, as the murderous Grimaud set in motion a series of savage, co-ordinated attacks designed to eliminate the Musketeers for good. Despite receiving Grimaud's direct attention, Athos manages to escape with his life, and sets out to warn his comrades they will be next on the hit-list. Meanwhile, Athos finds his affair with Queen Anne in the forefront of his mind as he accompanies King Louis on an annual pilgrimage to mark his royal father's death. Starring Santiago Cabrera, Tom Burke, Thalissa Teixeira, Luke Pasqualino, Tamla Kari, Howard Charles, Matthew McNulty, Rupert Everett, Lukas Juza, Andre Flynn, Hugo Speer and Ryan Gage.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** Wimbledon 2016. Coverage from the All England Club. **5.40** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

6.00 Pointless Celebrities. Radio 1 and Radio 1Xtra presenters Clara Amfo, Trevor Nelson, Yasmin Evans, Greg James, Chris Stark, Scott Mills, Dev Griffin and Sarah-Jane Crawford take part in the quiz. (R)

6.50 The Getaway Car. A father-and-son team, a pair of Essex girls, and two London Underground drivers are among the competitors hitting the track in South Africa this week.

7.40 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Quiz show in which five contestants answer questions to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws and Lotto results. Last in the series.

8.30 The Musketeers. Grimaud set in motion a series of savage attacks designed to eliminate the Musketeers, and when Athos manages to escape the trap, he sets out to warn his comrades.

9.25 Casualty. Brian's stray cigarette butt causes a house fire, leaving both Hazel and Rihanna's lives in jeopardy, and Charlie correctly guesses Connie and Jacob are back together.

10.15 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.35 Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl. (2003) A buccaneer and a blacksmith commandeer a British ship and set sail in pursuit of a pirate captain who has kidnapped a colonial governor's daughter. However, their quarry and his crew are under a curse that turns them into living skeletons – and makes them impossible to kill. Swashbuckling fantasy adventure, starring Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley, Geoffrey Rush, Jack Davenport and Jonathan Pryce.

12.45 Film: The Resident. (2011) A doctor moves into a spacious new apartment, but realises her landlord is dangerously obsessed with her. Horror, starring Hilary Swank, Jeffrey Dean Morgan and Christopher Lee. **2.10** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: The Long Voyage Home. (1940) Drama, starring John Wayne. **7.45 Film:** Flight of the Navigator. (1986) Sci-fi adventure, starring Joey Cramer. **9.10** Natural World. (R) **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.00** Wimbledon 2016. The ladies' wheelchair singles final. **12.30** Coast. (R) **1.00 Film:** Firecreek. (1968) Western, starring James Stewart. **2.40** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.25** Flog It! (R) **4.10** The Great British Sewing Bee. (R) **5.10** Gardeners' World. (R) **5.40** Wimbledon 2016. The men's and ladies' doubles finals.

8.00 Today at Wimbledon. Clare Balding and guests look back at highlights of the ladies' singles final at the All England Club, where the third Grand Slam title of the year was set to be decided. Plus, a preview of the men's singles final and action from the day's other finals and semi-finals.

9.00 The Wipers Times. In the bombed-out ruins of the Belgian town of Ypres in 1916, Captain Fred Roberts and Lieutenant Jack Pearson discover a printing press and decide to start a satirical newspaper to raise the spirits of the British troops. It proves hugely popular with the men in the trenches – but their superior officers see it as an act of insubordination and subversion and call for a ban. Feature-length factual drama by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman, starring Ben Chaplin, Julian Rhind-Tutt, Michael Palin and Emilia Fox. (R)

10.30 Versailles. When a protest halts construction at the palace, the King refuses to let Philippe help and matters escalate, allowing plotters to pose a genuine threat to the young monarch's rule; (R) Inside Versailles.

11.30 Golf: Scottish Open. Highlights of day three from Castle Stuart Golf Club in Inverness, where Rickie Fowler is the reigning champion after victory at Gullane Golf Club.

12.30 Film: The Big Kahuna. (1999) The rising tension gets to three salesmen as they wait at a hotel to make their pitches to an important potential client. Drama, with Kevin Spacey. **1.55 Film:** Down Terrace. (2009) Father-and-son gangsters are released from prison and try to identify the informant in their organisation. Crime comedy, starring real-life father and son Robin and Robert Hill. **3.25** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Oddbods. (R) **7.35** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.00** NinjaGo: Masters of Spinjitzu. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** The Wine Show. **1.35** Big Box Little Box. (R) **2.05** Doc Martin. (R) **3.05 Film:** The Mirror Crack'd. (1980) Miss Marple mystery, starring Angela Lansbury. **5.10** The Chase. (R)

6.10 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.20 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from giddy grandmas, cute kids and crazy animals to below-the-belt mishaps, practical jokers and painful-looking accidents. (R)

7.00 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, asking three contestants to "see it and say it" as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000.

7.45 Film: The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey. (2012) Unassuming hobbit Bilbo Baggins is pulled out of his comfortable life when Gandalf the wizard volunteers him for a dangerous quest. He joins a party of dwarves who are on a mission to reclaim their lost homeland, which has been taken over by a dragon. The first part of Peter Jackson's fantasy adventure trilogy based on JRR Tolkien's novel, starring Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen and Richard Armitage.

10.50 ITV News; Weather.

11.10 Film: Carry On Matron. (1972) A gang of crooks tries to infiltrate a maternity hospital planning to steal the stock of contraceptive pills. Comedy, starring Sid James.

12.50 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. Jessica is taken hostage. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Mobil 1 The Grid. **6.25** Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. **6.55** Nic Hamilton's Racing Dream. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.55** The Morning Line. **9.55** Formula 1: British Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. The 10th round of the season continues. **11.05** The Superhumans Show. **11.35** Salvage SOS. **12.00** Formula 1: British Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage of the battle for pole position (Start-time 1.00pm). **2.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newmarket, York and Ascot. **5.30** Channel 4 News.

6.00 Gogglesprogs. Young TV viewers watch a range of programmes, from entertainment shows to documentaries and classic films, as well as up-to-the-minute news reports. In this instalment, the youngsters offer their honest and hilarious views on Call the Midwife, The Voice UK and The Wizard of Oz. (R)

7.00 Film: Battleship. (2012) A reckless slacker joins the Navy, hoping to win the respect of his girlfriend's father, a stern admiral. He and his shipmates are put to the ultimate test as part of a force of vessels that must battle an invading fleet of powerful alien spaceships. Sci-fi adventure, starring Taylor Kitsch, Liam Neeson and Alexander Skarsgard.

9.30 Film: Ted. (2012) A lonely boy makes a wish at Christmas that his teddy bear will come to life, which is magically granted. The boy grows up to become a directionless slacker, with the foul-mouthed living toy still his inseparable friend – but his girlfriend thinks it is time for him to grow up. Comedy, starring Mark Wahlberg and Mila Kunis, directed by and featuring the voice of Seth MacFarlane.

11.35 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. Gordon Ramsay is in New Jersey to help Rose Leone, who spent two years in a coma and came out of hospital to learn her son had run her beloved Italian restaurant into the ground. (R)

12.35 Film: The Place Beyond the Pines. (2012) Crime drama, starring Ryan Gosling. **3.00** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Grace gives her brothers an ultimatum. (R) **5.05** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R) **5.20** French Collection. Three collectors try to make a profit from items bought in Nice. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.25** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.00** The Saturday Show Live. **11.10** Police Interceptors: Takedown. (R) **11.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.40 Film:** Major Dundee. (1965) Western, starring Charlton Heston. **3.00 Film:** Rio Lobo. (1970) Howard Hawks' Western, with John Wayne and Jorge Rivero. **5.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Agents Paul and Phil head to Kent for an eviction, but when they finally take possession of the house, they discover a full-scale cannabis factory upstairs. Elsewhere, Brian and Delroy chase a debt of nearly £3,000 in Hampshire and two agents attempt to collect almost £5,000 owed by a farmer in Sussex. Plus, Paul finds himself accused of racism when he and Steve attempt to evict a Kosovan family living in emergency accommodation in north London. (R)

7.15 NCIS: Los Angeles. Callen and Sam unearth links to an al-Qaeda recruiting agent after a Navy officer dies following a confrontation involving a dancer and a Sudanese emigre at a strip club. (R)

8.05 NCIS. The agents reluctantly team up with the coast guard to investigate the apparent murder of a Navy diver who was trying to recover a sunken ship and its treasure, and Gibbs finds a prime suspect in a wealthy doctor who had bankrolled the underwater mission. Starring Mark Harmon. (R)

9.00 NCIS. Gibbs and Bishop travel to Afghanistan in the wake of the murder of a US Marine captain in Washington, DC, and the death is linked to a terror group affiliated with the Taliban.

9.55 5 News Weekend.

10.00 Big Brother. Catching up with the Big Brother contestants as they react to Friday night's live eviction, revealing how another departure has affected the rest of the house.

11.05 Gemma Collins: In Therapy. The reality TV star talks to therapist Mandy Saligari in a bid to understand why her celebrity dream has come crashing down. (R)

12.05 SuperCasino. **3.10** Big Brother. (R) **4.00** The Secret Life of Kittens. (R) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Moominland Tales: The Life of Tove Jansson **8.00** The Last Seabird Summer? **9.00 Film:** A Hijacking (2012) **10.40** T in the Park 2016 **1.10** Top of the Pops: 1982 **2.30** Ultimate Number 1s at the BBC **3.30** Close

ITV2
11.50 Ninja Warrior UK **12.50 Film:** Baby Mama (2008) **1.50** FYI Daily **1.55 Film:** Baby Mama (2008) **2.45 Film:** Small Soldiers (1998) **3.45** FYI Daily **3.50 Film:** Small Soldiers (1998) **5.00 Film:** Scooby-Doo (2002) **6.00** FYI Daily **6.05 Film:** Scooby-Doo (2002) **6.45 Film:** Sweet Home Alabama (2002) **7.45** FYI Daily **7.50 Film:** Sweet Home Alabama (2002) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Celebrity Juice: X Factor Special **10.50** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.20** The Cleveland Show **2.10** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.35** The Hot Desk: DNCE **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.35 Foyle's War **2.50 Film:** Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971) **3.50** FYI Daily **3.55 Film:** Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971) **5.00** Midsomer Murders **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Lewis **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.10** The Jury **1.10** City Lights **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
12.00 Goodwood Festival of Speed **1.00** Tour de France Highlights **2.00** Tour de France Live. Coverage of stage eight of this year's race. **4.30** Storage Wars **6.00** Monster Carp **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00 Film:** The Spy Who Loved Me (1977) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10 Film:** The Spy Who Loved Me (1977) **10.40 Film:** A Dangerous Man (2010) **11.40** FYI Daily **11.45 Film:** A Dangerous Man (2010) **12.35** Motorway Patrol **1.00** Tour de France Highlights **2.00** The Wine Show **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 Rich Kids of Instagram **12.00** New Girl **12.30** The Goldbergs **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Snow White & the Huntsman (2012) **11.30** Gogglebox **1.40** Rude Tube **3.30** The New Normal **4.10** Rude(ish) Tube **4.35** Revenge

Film4
11.00 Bend of the River (1952) **1.00** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **2.40** Rango (2011) **4.50** Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (2004) **6.55** The Way Way Back (2013) **9.00** Aliens (1986) **12.00** Alien 3 (1992) **2.15** The Pact (2012) **4.00** Close

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MONDAY
OPEN BANK HOLIDAY MONDAYS
TIPTON
Allens Sports and Social Club
Newall Street, @ **9.00am, 11.00am, 1.00pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Lorretta 07968 656634
GREAT BRIDGE
St Peter's Church Hall,
Whitehall Road, @ **5.30pm and 7:30**pm
Contact Jodie 07886 426429
WEDNESBURY
Central Methodist Church (Wesley Centre)
Spring Head @ **7.30pm**
Contact Vinny (Miss) 07412 074954
OLDBURY
St James C of E Church,
Shelsley Avenue, @ **7.00pm**
Contact Lorraine 07807 355812
OLDBURY
Church on the Rock,
Warley Road, Rood End @ **5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Kerrie 07923 129816

TUESDAY
OLDBURY
Warley Baptist Church,
Castle Road East, @ 9.30 am, **5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Julie 07505 084916
OLDBURY
Church on the Rock,
Warley Road, Rood End @ **9.15am and 11.15am**
Contact Kerrie 07923 129816
WEST BROMWICH
West Bromwich Community Centre,
Gayton Road, @ **5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Jodie 07886 426429
WEST BROMWICH
West Bromwich Leisure Centre,
Moor Street, @ **9.30am, 3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Pippa 07816 900149
WEDNESBURY
Woods Methodist Church
Coronation Road, Woods Estate, @ **5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Karen 07547 515345
TIPTON
Tipton Christian Church
Waterloo Street, **5.00pm and 7.00pm**
Contact Lisa 07514 607650
OLDBURY
Sainsbury's, Freeth Street,
@ **6.00pm & 7.15pm**
Contact Ann 07815 643963
DARLASTON
Darlaston Sports & Social Club Ltd,
16 The Leys, @ **9.30am, 11.30am, 3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Lesley 01922 634883
BRADLEY
St Martin's Church
Slater Street, @ **9.30am, 5.00pm and 7.00pm**
Contact Jodie 07547 771319

WEDNESDAY
WEST BROMWICH
West Bromwich Community Centre,
Gayton Road, @ **9.30am**
Contact Jodie 07886 426429
DARLASTON
Darlaston Sports & Social Club Ltd,
16 The Leys, @ **9.30am**
Contact Lesley 01922 634883
SMETHWICK
Dorothy Parkes Centre,
Church Road, **9.30am 5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Melisia 07935 447265
WEDNESBURY
Woods Methodist Church
Coronation Road, Woods Estate, @ **9.30am**
Contact Karen 07547 515345
WEDNESBURY
St Barts Church Hall
Bttm Church Hill @ **5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Jenny 0121 556 5909
WEDNESBURY
St Luke's Church, Elwell Street,
Mesty Croft, **7.00pm**
Contact Jodie 07751 839830
BLACKHEATH
Blackheath Central Meth Church,
High Street, @ **10.00am, 12.00pm, 5.00pm and 7.00pm**
Contact Ann 07815 643963
TIPTON
The Sportsman Pub (Separate entrance),
St. Marks Road, @ **7.00pm**
Contact (Miss) Vinny 07412 074954
OLDBURY
The Salvation Army Community Church,
Merton Close (off Pound Road) @ **7.30pm**
Contact Lorraine 07807 355812

THURSDAY
****NEW GROUP OPENS 14TH JULY****
WEDNESBURY
Lea Brook Church Hall,
Leabrook Road North @ **7.30pm**
Contact Linda 07902 079559
TIVIDALE
Ormaston Sandwell Community Academy,
Lower City Road, @ **7.00pm**
Contact Sarah 07875 445462
WEST BROMWICH
Stone Cross Library,
Beverley Road @ **9.30am and 11.30am**
Contact Lisa 07514 607650
WEDNESBURY
St Barts Church Hall
Bttm Church Hill @ **9.30am**
Contact Jenny 0121 556 5909
TIPTON
The Sportsman Pub (Separate entrance),
St. Marks Road, @ **9.00am, 11.00am, 5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact (Miss) Vinny 07412 074954
SMETHWICK
St Marks Church
Thimblemill Road @ **3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Michelle 07516 255665
BRANDHALL
Kings Community Church,
Oak Tree Centre, Tame Road @ **5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Dawn 07859 010175
WEST BROMWICH
Stone Cross Library,
Beverley Road, @ **5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Carole 07854 413929

FRIDAY
SMETHWICK
St Marks Church
Thimblemill Road @ **9.30am**
Contact Michelle 07516 255665

SATURDAY
OLDBURY
Bleakhouse Library,
Bleakhouse Road @ **8.00am and 10.00am**
Contact Kerrie 07923 129816
DARLASTON
Darlaston Sports & Social Club Ltd,
16 The Leys, @ **9.00am**
Contact Lesley 01922 634883
Or just come along
Career opportunities for past and present members in this area contact Jenny on 0121 556 5909 for more details.

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CHOICE

Paul O'Grady

Paul O'Grady's 100 Years of Movie Musicals (Channel 4, 6.30pm)
Paul explores the history of the genre, from its roots in the early 20th century, through its golden era, and up to the multimillion-dollar industry it has become. Featuring contributions from James Corden, Michael Ball, Michael York, Joel Grey, Sheila Hancock, Benny Andersson and Scott Baio, and the directors and stars of Les Misérables discuss singing the whole score live on set.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **12.45** BBC News; Weather. **1.00** Wimbledon 2016. **1.50** Wimbledon 2016. Sue Barker introduces live coverage of the men's singles final at the All England Club. **5.35** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

6.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker helps out with the strawberry harvest in Kent, while Naomi Wilkinson meets a couple who set up their own animal rescue centre and visits Dover to investigate the history of people attempting to swim the English Channel. John Craven meets a farmer growing Chinese vegetables, Adam Henson reports from the Royal Three Counties Show, and Tom Heap investigates calls to ban live plant imports.

7.00 MOTD: Euro 2016 Live. The final (Kick-off 8.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the showpiece game, which takes place at the Stade de France, as the 24-team tournament draws to a close. The event began in this stadium exactly one month ago, with Didier Deschamps' host nation overcoming Romania 2-1 thanks to a wonder-strike from West Ham United's Dimitri Payet. France would top their group and move onto a last-16 encounter with the Republic of Ireland, while Romania were eliminated after finishing bottom of the table following their three matches. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

10.30 BBC News.

10.50 Regional Programme.

11.00 Live at the Apollo. Andy Parsons hosts the stand-up show recorded at London's Hammersmith Apollo. (R)

11.45 Film: Flatliners. (1990) Five medical students conduct dangerous experiments to discover whether there is an afterlife by electronically inducing a near-deathlike state and then bringing about resuscitation at the critical moment. However, when they venture into real-death experiences, they unwittingly unleash supernatural phenomena linked to their past misdeeds. Thriller, with Julia Roberts.

1.35 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.40** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.35** Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.05** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.30** Tom Kerridge's Best Ever Dishes. (R) **11.00** Wimbledon 2016. The men's wheelchair singles final. Sue Barker presents coverage of the inaugural staging of this final at the all England Club, as the final day of the Grand Slam commences. **12.30** Coast. (R) **1.00 Film:** Pollyanna. (1960) An orphaned girl tries to spread cheer among the miserable inhabitants of a New England town. Family drama based on Eleanor H Porter's novel, starring Hayley Mills and Jane Wyman. **3.10** Flog It! (R) **3.55** Tribute to a Queen – The Big Sing. (R) **4.35** Giraffes: Africa's Gentle Giants – Natural World. (R) **5.35** Wimbledon 2016. Sue Barker introduces live coverage of the mixed doubles final, the last action of this year's event at the All England Club.

8.00 Film: The Help. (2011) An aspiring journalist returns to her Mississippi home in the 1960s and begins documenting the lives of black servants working for wealthy white families. Her project brings the community's household staff together, but creates controversy among their employers. Drama based on Kathryn Stockett's novel, starring Emma Stone, Viola Davis, Bryce Dallas Howard and an Oscar-winning Octavia Spencer.

10.20 Mock the Week. Topical comedy quiz show, hosted by Dara O Briain. (R)

10.50 Today at Wimbledon. Clare Balding and guests look back at highlights of the men's singles final at the All England Club, where the third Grand Slam title of the year was set to be decided. Plus, a look at the rest of the day's finals, as the famous tournament was brought to a conclusion.

11.50 Golf: Scottish Open. Highlights of the fourth and final day from Castle Stuart Golf Club in Inverness, where the successor to last year's winner Rickie Fowler was crowned.

12.50 Sign Zone: Countryfile. John Craven explores Pembrokeshire's boating heritage, while Helen Skelton makes a meal out of foraged seaweed and meets the people who made an eco house from local materials. (R) **1.50** Holby City. Part two of two. (R) **2.45** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Oddbods. (R) **7.35** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.00** Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Countrywise. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **10.55** Judge Rinder. (R) **11.55** ITV News; Weather. **12.00** Rebound. (R) **1.00** The Chase. (R) **2.00** Love Your Garden. (R) **3.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.00** Masterpiece with Alan Titchmarsh. (R)

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from giddy grandmas, cute kids and crazy animals to below-the-belt mishaps, practical jokers and painful-looking accidents. (R)

7.00 Euro 2016. The final (Kick-off 8.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the showpiece game, which takes place at the Stade de France, as the 24-team tournament draws to a close. The event began in this stadium exactly one month ago, with Didier Deschamps' host nation overcoming Romania 2-1 thanks to a wonder-strike from West Ham United's Dimitri Payet. France would top their group and move onto a last-16 encounter with the Republic of Ireland, while Romania were eliminated after finishing bottom of the table following their three matches. Last in the series. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

10.45 ITV News; Weather.

11.00 Sports Life Stories. Sports stars are invited to look back over their lives and achievements. (R)

12.00 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with ITV News National Editor Allegra Stratton. (R) **12.50** Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00** Motorsport UK. Highlights from Oulton Park. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Salvage SOS. **6.40** Salvage SOS. **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** The King of Queens. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** Formula 1: British Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the 10th round of the season (Start-time 1.00pm). **4.00** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.00** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.

6.00 Channel 4 News.

6.30 Paul O'Grady's 100 Years of Movie Musicals. Paul explores the history of the genre, from its roots in the early 20th century, through its golden era, and up to the multimillion-dollar industry it has become. Featuring contributions from James Corden, Michael Ball, Michael York, Joel Grey, Sheila Hancock, Benny Andersson and Scott Baio, and the directors and stars of Les Misérables discuss singing the whole score live on set.

8.00 Film: Les Miserables. (2012) A former prisoner tries to lead an honest life in post-revolutionary France, despite being pursued everywhere by a fanatical police inspector. He promises a poverty-stricken factory worker that he will raise her child, a relationship that gives his life new meaning, but both of them are drawn into an uprising against the reinstated monarchy. Musical, starring Hugh Jackman.

11.05 Formula 1: British Grand Prix Highlights. Steve Jones presents action from the 10th round of the season at Silverstone, where Lewis Hamilton was looking to win this race for the fourth time in his career.

12.10 Film: The Quiet Ones. (2014) A scientist performs experiments on a woman in the hope of manifesting a poltergeist, but the horror he unleashes proves deadly. Horror, starring Jared Harris and Sam Claflin. **1.55** Dogs: Their Secret Lives. Mark Evans observes three pets exhibiting unusual behaviour to find out what could be at the root of their problems and how to help them. (R) **2.50** Rescue Dog to Super Dog. The team helps to find disability helper dogs for Manchester-based Paula, who has a faulty immune system, and second year student Ellie with cerebral palsy. (R) **3.45** Posh Pawnbrokers. In Sheffield, Dan goes to look at a boat with a £90,000 price tag. (R) **4.40** French Collection. Three collectors visit a market in Arles in Provence. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Pets. (R) **7.10** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.45** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Access. (R) **10.35** Funniest Falls, Falls & Flops. (R) **11.05** Rookies & Raids: A Police Interceptors Special. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors: Deadly Pursuits. (R) **1.00** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **2.00** Hello Kitty: When Cats Go Bad. (R) **3.00** Puppies Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **4.00** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **5.00** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R)

6.00 5 News Weekend.

6.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Agents Paul and Steve face a moral dilemma in south London, when they find out the tenant they have been instructed to evict is on his way to a funeral. Elsewhere, Stewart and Victor chase £1,000 from a debtor who has defaulted on his payment plan, but they are subjected to abuse and the police are called to a driveway standoff. Plus, two agents try to recover £1,600 worth of goods from the owner of an entertainment company after a wedding day dispute, and in west London, a landlady is owned £9,000 in rent arrears by a young mother. (R)

7.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. In East London, High Court Enforcement Agents Paul and Phil are involved in a brothel eviction, while in south Wales, Stewart and Elmore chase a debt owed by a working mum. Another case sees Stewart and Victor hunting down a £3,000 debt owed by a Liverpool takeaway for rent arrears. (R)

8.00 Cats Make You laugh Out Loud 3. Compilation of internet videos featuring cats doing bizarre things.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights.

10.00 Most Shocking Reality Moments. A celebration of the nation's long-running love affair with reality TV. (R)

12.50 Lip Sync Battle. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Blair Rich Project. (R) **4.00** Now That's Funny! (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Film: The Water Babies (1978) **8.30** The Sky at Night **9.00** T in the Park 2016 **12.00** American Nomads **1.30** Horizon: The Truth About Exercise **2.30** Immortal? A Horizon Guide to Ageing **3.30** Close

ITV2
12.20 Take Me Out **1.30** Love Island **2.00 Film:** Kindergarten Cop (1990) **3.00** FYI Daily **3.05 Film:** Kindergarten Cop (1990) **4.15 Film:** Back to the Future Part III (1990) **5.15** FYI Daily **5.20 Film:** Back to the Future Part III (1990) **6.35 Film:** You've Got Mail (1998) **7.35** FYI Daily **7.40 Film:** You've Got Mail (1998) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **1.30** Safeword **2.10** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
2.55 Film: George and Mildred: The Movie (1980) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00 Film:** George and Mildred: The Movie (1980) **4.50** Wycliffe **5.55** Sunday Night at the Palladium **7.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** The Bletchley Circle **10.00** Lewis **12.00** Wire in the Blood **2.00** A Touch of Frost **3.40** May the Best House Win **5.20** On the Buses **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4
12.00 Tour de France Highlights **1.00** Tour de France Live. Coverage of stage nine of this year's race. **5.00** Storage Wars **6.00** The Wine Show **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** River Monsters **9.05 Film:** Last Man Standing (1996) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** Last Man Standing (1996) **11.15 Film:** Universal Soldier: Day of Reckoning (2012) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20 Film:** Universal Soldier: Day of Reckoning (2012) **1.30** Tour de France Highlights **2.20** Nitro Circus **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.30 Film: Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (2009) **2.15** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** X-Men (2000) **10.05** Rich Kids of Instagram **11.00** Gogglebox **12.05** Rude Tube **1.10** Tattoo Fixers **2.10** 2 Broke Girls **2.50** The New Normal **3.10** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Dragonball Evolution (2009) **1.00** The Parent Trap (1961) **3.35** Earthquake (1974) **6.10** Seven Years in Tibet (1997) **9.00** Red (2010) A retired CIA agent survives an assassination attempt, and reunites his old hit squad to find out who wants them dead. Action thriller, starring Bruce Willis and Morgan Freeman. **11.15** Kick-Ass 2 (2013) **1.20** Wild Bill (2011) **3.30** Close

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Lost Letter Mysteries: The Impossible Dream, Channel 5, 3.15pm
The team of postal detectives works against the clock to decode a letter that could hold the key to saving the life of a US military medic in Afghanistan who is being held as a prisoner of war. Meanwhile, Rita competes in the Miss Special Delivery contest. Mystery drama, starring Eric Mabius, Kristin Booth and Crystal Lowe. (2015)

WEDNESDAY
Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps, Channel 4, 1.35am
Ruthless stockbroker Gordon Gekko is released from prison after eight years, reinventing himself as an author and lecturer warning against the dangers of the financial system. Gekko helps a young banker get revenge on the company that drove his mentor to suicide, but as always, has a crooked agenda of his own. Oliver Stone's sequel to his 1980s drama, with Michael Douglas, Shia LaBeouf and Carey Mulligan. (2010)

Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy, Friday, BBC1, 11.35pm

THURSDAY
Columbo: Fade in to Murder, ITV, 11.10pm
An actor who plays a detective on a soap opera is being blackmailed by his ex-lover, who is also his producer. Convinced that playing a sleuth makes him clever enough to get away with murder, he kills her and frames her husband – but has reckoned without the intervention of the crumpled cop. Crime drama, with Peter Falk, William Shatner, Lola Albright, Alan Manson and Walter Koenig. (1976)

FRIDAY
Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy, BBC1, 11.35pm
The chauvinistic host of a top-rated American news programme in 1970s San Diego fights for his status and job security when both are threatened by the arrival of an ambitious female reporter, whose determination to become a newsreader leads to a bitter battle of the sexes. Comedy, starring Will Ferrell, Christina Applegate, Fred Willard, Steve Carell, Paul Rudd, David Koechner, Vince Vaughn and Ben Stiller. (2004)

A new set of youngsters put themselves to the test

Three of TV's hardest quiz shows – Only Connect, University Challenge and Mastermind – all return to BBC Two this week, ready to challenge viewers' intellects and make some of us feel a little bit dim. (Although at least with Mastermind we can reassure ourselves that it's nearly impossible to do well on someone else's specialist subject).

However, the show most likely to leave viewers feeling somewhat inadequate is arguably Child Genius, which is back for a fourth series on Channel 4.

For newcomers, the programme follows some of the country's cleverest eight to 12-year-olds as they battle it out to be crowned Britain's brightest child in the now annual competition, which is organised in association with British Mensa.

It's not just about the questions. The series also follows the kids and their families, offering an insight into what it's like to be a gifted youngster and the different ways their parents have of dealing with the challenges involved. It also gives viewers an opportunity to weigh up the age-old nature versus nurture debate, as they ask themselves whether the kids were just born bright, or if their intellectual ability is at least partly down to parental encouragement.

However, what we do see of the competition can be tough, and in this first episode, the contestants will be facing the very demanding maths and memory rounds.

So perhaps it's reassuring that this year the questions will be asked by someone with a track record for putting nervous contestants at ease – Pointless co-host Richard Osman. Although sadly on this show, no one can simply answer 'Central African Republic' and hope for the best.

Osman is certainly a fan of the programme, saying: "I jumped at the chance to get involved with Child Genius. The previous series have been so warm and charming, and such a celebration of bright and funny kids.

"I know I would have taken part in the show if it had been around when I was young. I would have lost very badly though."

Hopefully, this year's class of Child Geniuses are feeling more confident. The chances are that 12-year-old Mog is up for the challenge, as he put himself forward in the hopes of proving that you don't need a pushy parent behind you to win.

Some of the families featured are taking a slightly more hands-on approach though, including Simon from Essex, who has spent the past three years preparing his 11-year-old son Christopher for the show. Their training has included analysing every previous episode to find potential winning strategies.

Meanwhile, Hayley should also be well prepared – her eldest child Curtis took part two years ago, and now she's back with her 11-year-old daughter Sophia.

And we also get to meet Max, whose mum Fanny is hoping that the process will encourage him to embrace his intellect. But given that the youngster has ADHD, how will he respond to the competition?

Richard Osman features, Child Genius, Tuesday, Channel 4, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Only Connect
BBC2, 8.30pm
New series. Victoria Coren Mitchell returns with the quiz show as another batch of teams of three use patience, lateral thinking and sheer inspiration to make connections between four things that may appear at first not to be linked, hoping to succeed reigning champions the String Section. In the opening edition of the 12th series, London Underground enthusiasts the Tubers take on Shakespeare lovers the Bardophiles, with one set of clues consisting of Brownies, Michael Fagan, Freddie Krueger and Milk Tray Man.

Exodus: Our Journey to Europe
BBC2, 9pm
We've all seen the upsetting footage of people desperately trying to make the hazardous journey from their war-torn homelands to the relative safety of Europe as they attempt to escape danger and persecution. As distressing as this footage is, brief glimpses during news reports don't really paint a true picture of the horrors these reluctant travellers have faced, and that's where this documentary comes in. It charts the efforts of those involved via cameraphones handed to migrants during their journeys, which allowed them to capture the most perilous moments they faced. The result is a unique and extremely personal insight into the reality of being forced to flee your home and fearing for your life and those of your loved ones while facing an uncertain future.

TUESDAY
Love Your Garden
ITV, 8pm
Alan Titchmarsh and his team visit Canterbury to help Gurkha Hari Budha Magar, who lost the use of both his legs in Afghanistan in an IED incident. Though Hari thinks nothing of going out of his way to help others, most recently helping pensioners whose homes were hit by the floods in Cumbria, his own garden is a challenge he has to yet to overcome. So the team transform his overlooked plot into a colourful private sanctuary that nods to his Nepalese homeland, and there is a surprise appearance by Joanna Lumley.

WEDNESDAY
Long Lost Family
ITV, 9pm
New series. Two adopted people born on opposite sides of the world search for their birth mothers in Singapore, and the team makes a discovery that nobody could have predicted. Meanwhile, 29-year-old paediatric nurse Anna London-Truckle is desperate to reconnect with her birth mother, who made the ultimate sacrifice to give her daughter a better chance at life. Anna was adopted by a British couple at the age of two, but with no memories of her beginnings, she now feels disconnected from her roots in Riobamba, Ecuador.

Long Lost Family, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

THURSDAY
Golf: The Open Championship
BBC2, 8pm
Hazel Irvine presents the best action from the opening day of the 145th staging of the Major, which is being held at Royal Troon in South Ayrshire. Eight Open Championships have been held at Troon, but it's been 12 years since Todd Hamilton shocked the golfing world with his win at the 2004 tournament. The iconic eighth hole, 'the Postage Stamp' is one of the shortest par threes in professional golf and will attract plenty of attention. However, at more than 7,200 yards there's enough length to test the world's best players. American Zach Johnson entered as the reigning champion, after he won the Claret Jug 12 months ago following a three-man play-off against Marc Leishman and Louis Oosthuizen at St Andrews. But the British challenge should be strong this year, particularly after Danny Willett joined the major winners' club with a cool-headed Masters win.

FRIDAY
BBC Proms 2016
BBC2, 7.30pm
New series. Part one. From London's Royal Albert Hall, Katie Derham introduces the first night of the annual music festival. Proceedings begin with Tchaikovsky's Fantasy Overture to Romeo and Juliet, the first in a series of musical works during the season marking 400 years since the death of Shakespeare. Argentine cellist Sol Gabetta then makes her Proms debut in Elgar's haunting Cello Concerto, the first of 10 concertos for the instrument to be performed over the next few weeks. Sakari Oramo conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Coverage continues on BBC Four.

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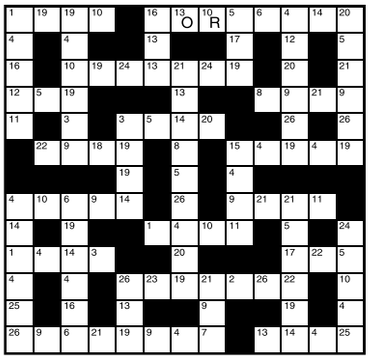
BRAIN GYM No.385

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
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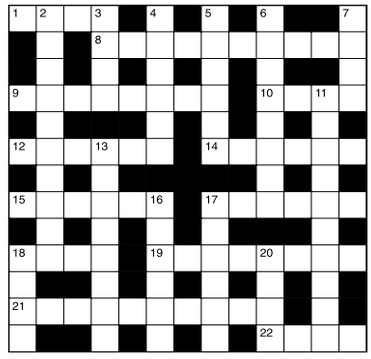
12	25
13 O	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
S	Q	N	H	O	A	G	P	C	X	L	D	B
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
V	U	K	J	Y	Z	F	R	T	M	E	I	W

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Yet an organ won't go without it! (4)
8. Honest, as the chairman of the directors should be (5,5)
9. A father, for example, in better surroundings (8)
10. Travel permit for six to S. Africa, initially (4)
12. Quake in the centre, more or less (6)
14. Manage to show the way (6)
15. This system worked in medieval times (6)
17. Yet they may be men on board! (6)
18. It's a wine that's coming back (4)
19. Light wit, perhaps, but slightly illuminating (8)
21. Side line for the artist? (10)
22. Forced to be a servant, we hear (4)

Down

2. Do as you're told and become a priest (4,6)
3. The head cook may make it (4)
4. Toiler disposed to belie his nature (6)
5. Dreaded being deafer, perhaps (6)
6. Study poetry, so to speak (8)
7. Not quite perfect thought (4)
11. It's used on watch (6-4)
13. An every-day conclusion (8)
16. Admit – or just the opposite! (3,3)
17. Leaves about fifty counterpanes (6)
18. It's found in tribal songs, too (4)
20. A particular piece of white marble (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Way (4)
8. Bizarre (10)
9. Estrange (8)
10. Dry (4)
12. Unfruitful (6)
14. Furrow (6)
15. Disappear (6)
17. To here (6)
18. Inform (4)
19. Sleep-producing (8)
21. Agree (10)
22. Pace (4)

Down

2. Merge (10)
3. Stockings (4)
4. Filter (6)
5. Obvious (6)
6. Lying near (8)
7. Cast off (4)
11. Unbelievable (10)
13. Banter (8)
16. Upright (6)
17. Tear (6)
18. Change of course (4)
20. Probability (4)

Sudoku

		4		9	1		8	
1					2			
7	2	9	8			4		1
			2					3
	9	2				6	5	
8				7	9			
		6			8	3	1	4
								5
	4		3	6		9	2	

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	6	3	9	4	7	8	2	1
2	1	7	5	3	8	6	4	9
8	9	4	6	1	2	7	5	3
3	7	8	2	9	1	4	6	5
4	2	9	3	6	5	1	8	7
6	5	1	8	7	4	3	9	2
7	8	5	4	2	3	9	1	6
1	4	6	7	5	9	2	3	8
9	3	2	1	8	6	5	7	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Aware; 8 Cahoots; 9 Tripoli; 10 Ruler; 12 Rhinoceros; 15 Perversity; 18 Repel; 19 Pro rata; 21 Press on; 22 Logic. Down: 1 Waste paper; 2 Tacit; 3 Memo; 4 Action; 5 Short cut; 6 Rollers; 11 Resistance; 13 Heedless; 14 Prophet; 16 Supine; 17 Range; 20 Oils. QUICK - Across: 7 Overt; 8 Elector; 9 Precede; 10 Agile; 12 Settlement; 15 Exasperate; 18 Tango; 19 Curator; 21 Austere; 22 Picks. Down: 1 Complacent; 2 Deter; 3 Stye; 4 Recent; 5 Decadent; 6 Strikes; 11 Enterprise; 13 Employed; 14 Earnest; 16 Racket; 17 Stick; 20 Rapt.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Which group of minerals form the chief constituents of igneous rock?
2. Which heartthrob went from EastEnders to a starring role in Heartbeat?
3. Of what name has Britain had two kings and France ten?
4. In which country were the first Commonwealth Games held in 1930?
5. In which country was the Cultural Revolution of 1966-76?
6. In which game may a player use the words j'adoube?
7. In the 1990s, which Republic of Ireland footballer joined Liverpool as the country's most expensive defender?
8. With what is philology concerned?
9. Who wrote the opera Castor et Pollux in 1737?
10. In which sport are Doggett's Coat and Badge awarded?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 John Paul Getty II; 2 Halibut; 3 Spain; 4 Nigel Hawthorne; 5 Dublin; 6 Carlos The Jackal; 7 Salicylic acid; 8 K2; 9 Colin MacInnes; 10 Erik 'The Red'.

Niner: REPUBLICS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

528 gives a sign of the Zodiac,
32946 gives a planet,
81789 gives a constellation.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

The former pub is now the popular Royal Oak Indian Restaurant

Spacious – inside the Royal Oak Indian Restaurant

Plenty of choice in seating, with family and private areas

The well-stocked bar has a varied selection

It's a right Royal treat at the Oak where Zack aims to reign

I DIDN'T come here to be insulted, I thought, as the waiter beckoned me with a 'Mongoose, sir!" So where would I usually go, you may ask?

I jest of course. That was my drink of choice at the Royal Oak, in Rushall, a former pub which has a new lease of life as an Indian restaurant.

Zahirul Islam pulls the strings in the tight-knit family-run operation, which also features two of his brothers and a cousin. He jokes that he is known as Zack to customers, friends and even his close family, simply because people struggled to spell, or even pronounce his name.

And that in itself gives an indication of the staff's attitude. They are a jocular crew, so it's easy to strike up a rapport with them.

We visited during Holy month, so while

Mark Shipp tucks in

the staff were on a fast, the delivery of our food was speedy. Usually the chef would test the ingredients before serving up, but, being Ramadan, could not. Instead, he had to use all his expertise to know exactly the right blend for our meals. It worked a treat.

For the record, I tried the machli tikka, pink salmon, served with coconut rice. The other half took her choice from the signature dishes and opted for the Manchurian chicken – which sounds like something Noel Gallagher would choose – served with mushroom rice.

Other exotic-sounding options from the same range include lamb pelli pelli, mustard fish and jinga delight, but there's an extensive menu, from a Royal mixed grill in the grilled section, to the more traditional choices or biryani dishes. Vegetarians are catered for with the likes of paneer birbali, while omelette and chips and tarragon chicken feature among the English dishes.

The Royal Oak serves up a wider range of drinks than one would usually find at a licensed Indian restaurant, hence my choice of Mongoose. Both agreed our meals were delicious, and I was served a trout as an extra. Something fishy there, methinks.

Essence

But that was not our only treat. Desserts followed, by which time our hosts could end their fast, so they offered us a serving of the platter they were to enjoy. It was too much, especially after pudding, but it needed no second invitation as they kindly packed it up so we could enjoy it the next day.

Zack has tried to keep the essence of the building since taking on the former pub just six months ago. It had been a popular establishment in its day and he was keen to bring it back into use.It's welcoming and adequately decorated and ambiently lit.

It has a separate room where customers can go just for a drink, or wait for a table in the restaurant itself. The main dining areas cater for up to 100 diners with an emphasis on families, though bigger parties and corporate events can be accommodated, too.

Our own position was in a prime location, in the far corner, looking out on adjacent field, watching people tend the horses or take them off for rides. Zack himself has taken the reins in his own field – and looks to be on to a winner.

The Royal Oak, Daw End, Rushall, is open on Sunday to Thursday from 5.30 to 11.30pm and on Friday and Saturday until 12.30am. Zack is even looking at introducing Sunday lunchtime dining and a Wednesday banquet evening. Call 01922 614947.

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**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show — see brochure/web page for details.*

London is the natural home of theatre and the musical is king in the capital's world-famous West End. British musicals that prove a runaway success here, often go on to triumph on Broadway and around the globe. The winning combination of engaging writing, captivating stage design and commanding performance has enabled London theatres to achieve box office smashes time and time again.

Omega Holidays offer a superb portfolio of theatre breaks, managing the whole show package which includes travel, either by coach or rail, four-star accommodation and various price bands for each show. Make your own way breaks are also available to book.

Rail inclusive breaks – Two days

Saturday Night Theatre from £169.95

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital.

There's a selection of London hotels to choose from (supplements may apply) and rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday.

The ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Rail inclusive breaks – Three days

Theatre Showstopper from £239.95

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday returning on Sunday.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade, plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel (supplements may apply).

Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Saturday Night from £149.95

Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £159.95

For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option, see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the evening performance (meal not included).

Both breaks include a standard priced theatre ticket and the option to upgrade plus an overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel.

DAYS: 2 OR 3 DEPARTS: VARIOUS DATES

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Delightful family residence situated opposite woodland

OLDBURY £425,000

This delightful family home in Harborne Road, Oldbury, is opposite ever popular Warley Woods, making it ideal for dog walkers and fans of nature.

It is for sale through Robert Oulsnam at £425,000.

A spokesman for the selling agent said: "Buying a house is all about the location and this home has it all!"

Also within just 0.5 miles of Lightwoods Park and shops, banks and cafés on Bearwood High Street lie just one mile away. Popular local restaurants such as Miller & Carter and The Kings Head can also be accessed within 0.8 miles.

"The area is also home to well-regarded local schools making this the perfect spot for families" added the spokesman.

This delightful family home has a welcoming entrance hallway that leads off to two tastefully decorated reception rooms; the first being bay fronted and the second with French-style patio doors opening to the garden.

A modern, extended dining kitchen sits to the rear and has glorious views across the grounds, creating the ideal space for family meal times and gatherings.

Three double bedrooms provide suitably sized family accommodation, with an added splash of luxury in the form of a contemporary styled en-suite shower room. Accessed from the master bedroom, this includes 'his & her' basins with chrome fixtures.

The spokesman added: "For the perfect escape from busy day to day life, the property offers a stunning and beautifully maintained rear garden. Set across four levels, the space includes various established areas laid to lawn, mature borders and contemporary patio areas."

To the front, a block paved driveway provides ample parking for several vehicles.

Robert Oulsnam and Company operates from 12 networked offices in the West Midlands, Worcestershire, and south Birmingham. The main office is situated in the village of Barnt Green, and the most recently opened branches are in Bournville and on the Pershore Road in Stirchley and follow a merger with Laing and Co.

KEY FEATURES

- Opposite Warley Woods
- 0.5 miles from Lightwoods Park
- Bearwood High Street 1 mile
- Good local schools
- Near popular restaurants

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Robert Oulsnam
TEL: 0121 4299986
EMAIL: hagleyroad@oulsnam.net

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Based on the final property selling prices achieved in Sandwell - GetAgent 21st June 2016

Detached bungalow's substantial garden

OLDBURY
£199,950

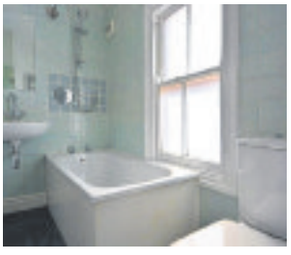
A freehold two-bedroomed detached bungalow in Meadow Road, Oldbury, includes a spacious lounge, conservatory and a substantial front garden and neat rear garden.

With off road parking and a detached garage, it is for sale through Derek Spires at £199,950.

With gas central heating and double glazing it also has a hallway, a half tiled bathroom with an individual shower compartment, a kitchen/breakfast room, a substantial front garden and neatly laid out garden to the rear.

The property is elevated standing back behind double wrought iron gateway.

For further information contact Derek Spires on 0121 4204646 or visit www.derekspiresandco.com



Mid terrace is ideal as an investment or first time buy

BEARWOOD
£154,950 <<<

The sale of this traditional mid terrace property in Abbey Road, Bearwood is a great investment opportunity or first time buy.

It is for sale through Robert Oulsnam at £154,950 with no chain.

With three bedrooms, a bathroom, two reception rooms and a contemporary kitchen, it also comes with a pleasant rear garden. Original features include fireplaces, a stained glass window, floorboards and coving.

The property is situated within Bearwood, home to the much enjoyed grounds of Lightwoods Park and the glorious surroundings of Warley Woods. It is close to the main High Street and is in a most sought after style, popular amongst local residents and in keeping with the character of the area. Contact Robert Oulsnam on 0121 4299986 or visit www.oulsnam.net

SKITTS
ESTATE AGENTS

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EPC: F

Wednesbury
Crankhall Lane

- Three bedroom semi
- Central heating and double glazed windows
- Lounge
- Breakfast kitchen
- Cloakroom with WC
- Veranda/sun room
- Bathroom with shower

£525pcm

EPC: D

Tipton
Jonah Drive

- Ground floor flat
- Lounge with bay window
- Breakfast kitchen
- Bathroom with shower
- One double bedroom
- Allocated parking.

£425pcm

EPC: C

Tipton
Ferguson Drive

- One bed first floor apartment
- lounge
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Storage heaters
- Bathroom
- Allocated parking

£400pcm

EPC: E

Kingswinford
Glynne Avenue

- Recently redecorated
- Three bed semi
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Double glazed
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom with shower
- Rear garden

£700pcm

EPC: D

Wolverhampton
Shaylor Grove

- Two bed semi
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Bathroom with bath and shower
- G/central heating
- Landscaped gardens

£495pcm

EPC: D

Willenhall
Hawkswell Drive

- Two bed semi
- Gas central heating and d/glazed
- Fitted Kitchen
- Large single garage
- Rear garden
- Driveway for one car
- Available immediately

£475pcm

EPC: D

Bilston
Pickwick Place

- Purpose built first floor flat
- Two bedrooms
- Spacious lounge/diner
- Fitted kitchen with electric cooker
- Gas fired central heating

£450pcm

EPC: TBC

Dudley
Inhedge Street

- One bed GF apartment
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed
- Family bathroom
- Fitted kitchen with cooker
- Communal garden area

£395pcm

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Town house located on prestigious estate near canal

With picturesque views overlooking the canal basin, 38 Monins Avenue, Tipton, is situated on one of the most prestigious estates in Tipton.

It is for sale through Skitts at £134,950.

A three bed semi detached town house, the property has picturesque views overlooking the canal basin.

The Tividale Quays Estate is ideally placed for commuting, within a great catchment area for good local schooling and all the necessary amenities.

TIPTON
£134,950

A spokesman for the selling agent said: "The sale of this property is therefore an ideal opportunity for young professionals, first time buyers or young families alike to purchase this fantastically presented versatile family home."

He added that the three-storey property, with an integrated garage, was ready to move into straight away."

For further information contact Skitts on 0121 520 2255 or visit www.skitts.net

est. 2002

urban city estates

Sales Lettings Property Management

SMETHWICK
£117,000
71 Sydenham Road B66
- Investment opportunity
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Three bedroom

SMETHWICK
£99,000
Edith Road B66
- Investment opportunity
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Three bedroom

SMETHWICK
£105,000
Draycott Road B66
- Two bedroom
- Refurbished to a high standard
- Modern decor
- Close to local amenities

HANDSWORTH
£139,950
Rookery Road B21
- Three bedroom
- Two bathroom
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Close to local amnetics

EDGBASTON
£120,000
Barleycorn Drive B16
- Allocated parking
- Communal garden
- Newly built
- Intercom system
- 1 Bed apartment

DUDLEY
£167,500
Sheepwash Lane DY4
- Newly built
- Recently refurbished
- Close to local amenities
- Four bedroom

HANDSWORTH
£109,950
Victoria Road B21
- Outside space
- End of terrace
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Two bedroom

OLDBURY
£385,000
Dog Kennel Lane B68
- Refurbished to a very high standard
- Five bedroom
- Two en suites
- Modern kitchen with Siemens appliances
- Driveway

EDGBASTON
£895
Wilsford Green, Oak Hill Drive
- Two bed flat
- Modern decor
- Refurbished to a very high standard

SMETHWICK
£550
Flat 2 The Thimbles, Thimblemill Road
- Two bedroom Apartment
- New refurbished
- Open plan kitchen/lounge

BEARWOOD
£495
51 and 51a Three Shires Road (Commercial)
- 36sqm
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- Secured shutters
- Ideal property for retail/office premises

BEARWOOD
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- Two bedroom Apartment
- New refurbished
- Open plan kitchen/lounge

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Improved house situated on popular development

The Bantocks, West Bromwich, is a much extended and improved four-bedroomed detached house on a popular development near the town centre.

It is for sale through Paul Dubberley at £250,000 with no chain.

The property has gas central heating, driveway parking, double glazing and a rear garden, a single garage, entrance porch, hallway, lounge, extended sitting/dining room, extended kitchen with a utility area, four bedrooms with an en suite to the master and a family bathroom.

WEST BROMWICH
£250,000

The entrance porch has a sliding patio door and quarry tiled flooring and the through hallway has laminate flooring. The lounge has laminate flooring and a gas fire and double doors into the dining/sitting room with French doors to the garden.

The extended kitchen has a breakfast bar.

Contact Paul Dubberley on 0121 5252111 or visit www.pauldubberley.co.uk

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Photograph of a typical showhome interior. CGI is of the apartment block at Park View. Elevations and finishes may vary. *Available on selected plots reserved before 31st July 2016. Terms and conditions apply. **Help to Buy is available upon request subject to terms and conditions. †Calls cost 2p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

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WEDNESBURY

Riverway
Wednesbury
£169,999

A traditional three bedroom semi detached property full of character and traditional features in a desirable location, also benefiting from no upward chain. Property comprises of three bedrooms, two reception rooms, kitchen with side entry, off road parking, double glazing and central heating.

Darlaston Road
Wednesbury
£142,500

SOLD WITHIN 1 WEEK OF MARKETING - a three bedroom semi detached property with no upward chain, having off road parking and garage.

Powis Avenue
Tipton
£155,000

A well presented modern two bedroom extended detached bungalow with detached rear garage. Accommodation comprises of lounge, breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms, conservatory, shower room, front and rear gardens, double glazing and central heating.

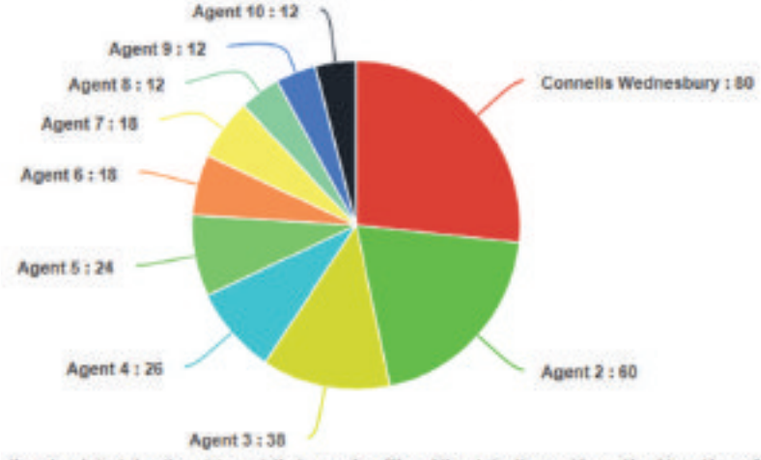
Trouse Lane
Wednesbury
£205,000

An executive style detached four bedroom property which must be viewed to appreciate the size on offer! Having spacious rear parking and detached garage, Two reception rooms, four double bedrooms, kitchen with utility area,downstairs W/C, double glazing & central heating .

Wiley Avenue
Darlaston
£109,950

An extended two bedroom semi detached property on an impressive corner plot boasting a 19FT x 14FT garage to the side. Benefiting from no upward chain property comprises two reception rooms, extended kitchen with downstairs wc, upstairs shower room, off road parking & double glazing.

Number of SALE AGREED properties year to date in Wednesbury WS10 & Tipton DY4. Let the numbers speak for themselves and instruct your local number one estate agent, Connells Estate Agents in Wednesbury to sell your property on 0121 556 2338



If you have instructed another estate agent, the terms and conditions of those instructions must be considered to avoid a possible liability to pay two commissions in addition to any withdrawal fee's or disbursements. Figures taken from rightmove.co.uk 4/7/16.

Star Close
Tipton
£114,950

Another property SOLD from the FIRST VIEWING. If you're thinking of selling or on the market, call Connells Wednesbury office for your FREE market appraisal.

Maple Leaf Road
Wednesbury
£159,950

Another property SOLD WITHIN 6 WEEKS. If you're struggling to sell, call Connells Wednesbury office for your FREE market appraisal.

St Christopher Drive
Wednesbury
£250,000

An excellent opportunity to purchase this modern style four bedroom detached property briefly comprising of lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, guest cloakroom, family bathroom, en-suite to bedroom 1 and 2, garage, drive-way providing off road parking. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating C.

Scott Avenue
Wednesbury
£165,000

Early inspection advised to appreciate this beautifully presented traditional style three bedroom semi detached property in a cul-de-sac location comprising dining room, lounge, conservatory, fitted kitchen, first floor family bathroom, enclosed rear garden and drive-way providing off road parking. EPC Rating E.

Shinglers Drive
Tipton
£150,000

A four bedroom semi detached family home on the popular Hamlet Place Development set in a cul-de-sac location this property benefits from, lounge, kitchen/diner, master bedroom with en-suite, separate WC, integral garage, off road parking, central heating and double glazing (as specified). EPC rating B.

Yardley Street
Wednesbury
£85,000

ANOTHER PROPERTY SOLD WITHIN 6 WEEKS - IF YOU'RE ON THE MARKET AND STRUGGLING TO SELL CALL CONNELLS WEDNESBURY OFFICE ON 0121 556 2338.

Woden Road South
Wednesbury
£270,000

An exceptionally well presented four bedroom family size home in one of the most sought after locations in Wednesbury. Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate this beautiful detached property briefly comprising of, porch entrance, open plan fitted kitchen with dining area, guest cloakroom, lounge, conservatory, first floor family bathroom, en-suite to master

Keir Road
Wednesbury

An extended & modernised three bedroom property which is an ideal first time purchase. Property must be viewed to appreciate internal condition & property on offer. Property comprises lounge, kitchen & utility area, conservatory, upstairs bathroom, rear garden & off road parking. ●NO UPWARD CHAIN●

Park Lane
Wednesbury

A traditional three bedroom semi detached property in a popular location. Comprising through lounge, extended kitchen, landscaped rear garden, upstairs bathroom, off road parking, double glazing and central heating.

Myrtle Terrace
Tipton

A three bedroom link detached property in a popular area, having through lounge diner, kitchen, first floor bathroom, garage with ample off road parking, double glazing and central heating.

Shaftesbury Road
Wednesbury
£160,000

A traditional three bedroom semi-detached property benefiting from NO UPWARD CHAIN. Briefly comprising of two reception rooms, kitchen, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, driveway providing of-road parking and garage for storage use.

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Rugeley Close, Tipton

- Superb Modern Second Floor Apartment
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Electric Heating
- Excellent Canal Views
- viewing recommended
- Lounge

- Fitted Kitchen
- 1 Bedroom
- Bathroom ● Allocated Parking,

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: £64,950

The Coppice, Tipton

- Totally Refurbished Semi Detached
- Viewing Highly Recomended
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- no upward chain
- Lounge

- Fitted Modern Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms ● Fitted Modern Shower Room
- Block Paved Driveway ● Rear Garden,

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: £115,000

Toll End Road, Tipton

- Spacious Middle Terrace
- Good Szie Family Accommodation
- UPVc Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £109,995

Foxyards Road, Tipton

- Semi Detached
- Sought After Location ● Upvc Double Glazing
- In Need of Repair / Attention
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC E

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £110,000

Cotterills Road, Tipton

- Truly Outstanding Middle Terrace
- Immaculate Vastly Improved Family Accommodation
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- EPC C

- Lounge ● Conservatory
- Modern Fitted Kitchen ● Dining Room ● Guest Cloakroom
- 3 Bedrooms ● Modern Fitted Bathroom
- Amazing Rear Garden with Superb Summer House,

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: £118,995

Gough Drive, Tipton

- Modern 3 Storey End Town House
- Spacious family Accommodation
- upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- sought after development
- Lounge / Dining Room

- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen ● Utility Room
- 4 Bedrooms ● En Suite Shower Room ● Family Bathroom
- Driveway ● Integral Garage ● Rear Garden,

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: £164,950

Dovecote Close, Tipton

- Modern Detached
- Good Location ● Good Size Plot
- Gas Central Heating
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £149,995

Bankfield Road, Tipton

- Traditional Semi Detached
- Most Sought After Location
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £144,950

Church Lane, West Bromwich — NEW

- Extended & Much Improved Semi
- 3 Double Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Enclosed Garden with Summerhouse
- Two reception Rooms

- Re-Fitted Kitchen Diner
- Utility & Guest WC
- Family Bathroom With Jacuzzi, Entrance Porch & Hall

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: £175,000

Seagar Street, West Bromwich

- 2 Bedroom semi detached
- Cul-De-Sac location
- Master with en suite
- Lounge

- Family Bathroom
- UPVC DG, GCH, Parking
- EPC Rating -, Guest Cloaks, Kitchen

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: £136,500

Tantany Lane, West Bromwich

- Refurbished Mid Terraced House
- 3 Bedrooms
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Bathroom & 1st Floor Cloakroom

- Enclosed Rear Garden
- UPVC DG, GCH, EPC Rating - D
- No Upward Chain, Refitted Kitchen & Bathroom

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: £121,995

CALL NOW FOR A FREE VALUATION

Monmouth Drive, West Bromwich — NEW

- Semi Detached House
- 3 Bedrooms
- Lounge
-
- Shower Room

- Double Glazed, Gas Central Heating
- Front & Rear Gardens
- EPC Rating - D, Dining Room

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: £137,500

Bridge Street, West Bromwich

- 3 Bedroom Mid Terrace
- Requiring Updating
- Lounge, Dining Room
- , Kitchen Area

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £95,000

Cramp Hill, Wednesbury

- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- First Floor Bathroom
- , Lounge & Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £110,000

Manor House Road, Wednesbury

- NEW Build Three Bedroom HOME
- Four Bedrooms (Two with en-suites)
- Lounge, Kitchen With Dining Area
- Spacious Accommodation Throughout, First Floor

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £205,000

Chestnut Road, Wednesbury

- Traditional Three Bedroom Detached Residence
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge, Dining Room
- , Kitchen & First Floor Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £145,000

Hawkswood Drive, Wednesbury

- Modern Semi Detached Home
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge Incorporating Dining Space
- EPC Rating: C, Feature Conservatory

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £120,000

Pitchwood Close, Wednesbury

- Modern Mid Town House
- Two Bedrooms
- First Floor Bathroom
- EPC Rating C, Lounge & Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £115,000

Dingley Road, Wednesbury

- Extended Semi Detached Property
- Three Double Bedrooms
- First Floor Family Bathroom
- Energy Rating E, Ground Floor Guest WC

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £147,500

Mcdougall Road, Wednesbury

- Spacious Semi Detached Home
- Three Bedrooms
- Through Lounge & Kitchen
- Energy Rating D, Ground Floor Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £120,000

Cramp Hill, Wednesbury

- Modern Semi Detached Property
- Master Bedroom & En-Suite
- Two Further Bedrooms
- EPC Rating C, Family Bathroom & Guest WC

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £129,995

Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury

- Traditional Terrace Home with No Chain!
- Three Bedrooms & Modern Bathroom
- Two Reception Rooms
- EPC Rating TBC, Contemporary Style Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £130,000

The Property Ombudsman SALES

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tv.pauldubberley.co.uk

Over 400 properties available to view online, on mobile or on tablet, most with fully voiced video walkthroughs.

Recently refurbished property has new kitchen and bathroom

Recently refurbished, this immaculately presented three-bedroomed semi-detached property, 4 Bayleys Lane, Tipton, comes with a brand new bathroom and kitchen.

It is for sale through The Property Shop at £139,950.

It has an entrance hall, a lounge, a kitchen with plumbing and space for a washing machine, electric oven and hob, three bedrooms and a bathroom.

For further information contact The Property Shop on 01384 456022 or visit www.thepropertyshop.co.uk

TIPTON

£139,950

Bartrams

TEL. 0121 601 9370
www.bartrams.com

BUSTLEHOLME LANE, B71 3BQ

- A Detached Dorma Bungalow
- Four Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Garage & Driveway
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£325,000

STANWAY GARDENS, B71 1RJ

- A Mid Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- Alarm System
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- Freehold

£105,000

KESTEVEN ROAD, B71 1JH

- A Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Conservatory
- EPC RATING C,
- Freehold

O.I.E.O £155,000

HAMBLETTS ROAD, B70 9NZ

- A Mid Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating,
- Majority Double Glazed
- Freehold, EPC RATING D

£134,950

GREEN LANE, B43 5LE

- A Semi Detached Bungalow
- Two bedrooms
- Garage At Rear
- No Upward Chain
- EPC RATING E, Freehold

£149,950

HILLARY AVENUE, WS10 0HE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Front And Rear Gardens
- Lounge, Off Road Parking
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£124,950

WYNDMILL CRESCENT, B71 3RB

- A Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazed
- Central Heating, Conservatory
- EPC RATING C, Freehold

£184,950

COBHAM ROAD, WS10 0JH

- An End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- Double Gates To Rear
- Freehold, EPC RATING C

£114,950

CHARLEMONT AVENUE, B71 3BY

- A Semi Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Double Glazed & Central Heating
- Two Reception Rooms
- Freehold, EPC RATING D

£284,950

ARLINGTON ROAD, B71 1AD

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Part Double Glazed
- Freehold

£169,950

6 AMPHION MEWS, B71 4HR

- New Gated Development
- Three Bedrooms
- Detached Bungalow
- Close To Sandwell Hospital
- Freehold
- EPC TBC

£284,950

7 AMPHION MEWS, B71 4HR

- New Gated Development
- Three Bedrooms
- Detached Bungalow
- Close To Sandwell Hospital
- Freehold
- EPC TBC

£279,950

CROCKFORD ROAD, B71 2ES

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- EPC RATING E, Freehold

£105,000

BROOKSIDE, WS10 0QF

- A Second Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Electric Storage Heaters
- Allocated Parking
- Leasehold, EPC RATING D

£86,950

WITTON LANE, B71 2AQ

- A Semi Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Lounge & Dining Area
- Freehold

£149,950

BERKSHIRE CRESCENT, WS10 0ST

- A Semi Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Through Lounge,
- Conservatory
- Garage
- Freehold, EPC RATING D

£124,950

MONARCH COURT, WS10 9FD

- A Duplex Apartment
- Two Bedrooms / En -Suite
- Excellent Location for Commuting
- Ideal 1st Time Buy
- Leasehold, EPC Rating F

£94,950

HOLYHEAD ROAD, WS10 7DQ

- A Well Presented Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Allocated Car Parking
- Storage Heating
- Fitted Kitchen

£90,000

Bartrams Sales and Lettings Limited
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Luxury living in a superb two-bedroomed apartment

OLDBURY
£99,950 >>>

This superb two-bedroomed apartment in Stone Street, Oldbury, lies on the second floor of a purpose-built apartment.

Featuring high-spec contemporary interiors, generous living space and an allocated parking space, it is for sale through Love Your Postcode at offers in excess of £99,950.

Offering "City Centre-esque luxury living for a fraction of the price", ilt It has a generous living room, a fitted kitchen with part tiled splash-backs, an integrated electric oven and hob with extractor hood over, integrated fridge/freezer, ceiling spotlights, a breakfast bar and laminate flooring.

It also has an entrance hall, a luxurious master bedroom with en-suite facilities, an additional double bedroom, a Juliette balcony, a family bathroom and a secure entry system.

For further information contact Love Your Postcode on 0121 5449595 or visit www.loveyourpostcode.com

A highly deceptive home with spacious accommodation

WILLENHALL
£299,995

A substantial family home, this six-bedroomed detached in Sandbeds Road, Willenhall, is a highly deceptive home with exceptional and spacious living accommodation.

It is for sale through Connells at £299,995.

Externally there is a large frontage providing ample off road parking leading to two garages situated either side of the property.

The main garage has rear access leading to the secure parking area to rear.

The rear garden has a large entertainment family paved patio area and a lower levelled lawned area.

Internally this spacious home offers impressive living to include a 24ft open plan lounge to front, a separate dining room, a 16ft rear sitting room, a 16ft family entertainment room and 19ft open plan kitchen/diner and a ground floor shower room.

To the first floor there is a fantastic selection of six

double bedrooms with a separate family bathroom and WC as well as a master en suite.

This property is obviously ideal for the extended family, with its six-bedroomed accommodation providing plenty of space for every member of the family.

The sale of this home is expected to generate a lot of interest, which is down to just how much it has to offer for the price.

The agents are stressing the importance of booking a prompt viewing in order to be able to appreciate first hand the space available.

For further information contact Connells on 01902 710170 or visit www.connells.co.uk

Improved and well-presented home is ideal first time buy

SMETHWICK
£149,950 <<<

A superb first time buy! This vastly improved three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Thimblemill Road, Smethwick, is a well presented home.

Elevated from the road, it is for sale through Robert Oulsnam at £149,950.

Ideal for both first time buyers and young families it has two stylish reception rooms which include a bay window to the front, a modern ground floor WC, a contemporary kitchen complete with an integrated oven, hob and extractor.

The property is situated within Smethwick, just on the border of Bearwood.

From the front of the property, there are glorious views across Thimblemill Pool which is popular with both local residents and fisher men.

Early viewing is strongly recommended.

Contact Robert Oulsnam on 0121 4299986 or visit the site www.oulsnam.net

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0121 4299986 Hagley Road Office

NEW

Thimblemill Road, Bearwood

- Stylish Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern Kitchen And BAthroom
- Period Features
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £139,950

NEW

Ethel Street, Bearwood

- Spacious Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Stunning Modern Kitchen
- Ground Floor WC
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £159,950

NEW

Cornwall Avenue, Oldbury

- Delightful Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Modern Style Kitchen
- Through Lounge
- Off Road Parking
- EP Raing TBC

Offers in the region of £134,950

NEW

Topsham Road, Smethwick

- Traditional Mid terrace
- Three Bedroms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Ideal First Purchase
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £109,950

NEW

Rosefield Road, Smethwick

- Double Fronted End Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Garage
- Viewing is Essential
- EP Rating F

Offers in the region of £122,500

NEW

Roton Park Road, Edgbaston

- Detached Character Property
- Five Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern Dining Kitchen
- Garage And Off Road Parking
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £529,950

Harborne Road, Oldbury

- Charming Family Home
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Two Receptiopn Rooms
- Delightful Conservatory
- Stunning Rear Garden
- EP Rating E

Offers in the regio of £425,000

Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury

- Well Presented Detached
- Three Reception Rooms
- Spacious Dining Kitchen
- Five Double Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £329,950

NEW

Harden Keep, Millpool Way

- End Of Terrace Bungalow
- Designed For The Over 55's
- Two Bedrooms
- Requires General Modernisation
- 95% Shared Ownership
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £90,000

Bearwood Road, Smethwick

- Deceptively Spacious Terrace
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Modern Kitchen
- Family Sized Accommodation
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £153,000

Wigorn Road, Bearwood

- Well Presented End Terrace
- Off Road Parking
- Two Double Bedrooms
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £167,500

Reginald Road, Bearwood

- Charming Traditional Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £124,950

Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury

- Charming Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Through Lounge
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £209,950

Capethorn Road, Smethwick

- Tastefully Presented Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £119,950

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Goodchilds FOR SALE

Goodchilds
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Woden Road East,Wednesbury
- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating
- Living Room
- Kitchen/Diner
- Rear Garden
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Double Glazing

Offers in the Region Of £155,000

Neptune Street,Tipton
- DETACHED PROPERTY
- TWO BEDROOMS
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- RECENTLY RE-FURBISHED
- DOUBLE GLAZED
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING

Offers in the Region Of £140,000

Church Hill,Wednesbury
- Church View
- Open Plan Kitchen & Diner
- Tiered Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Early Viewing Essential
-

£150,000

NEW

Hydes Road,Wednesbury
- Conservatory
- Semi Detached
- Living Room
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Utility Room
- Three Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom

Offers in the Region Of £140,000

NEW

Corporation Street,Wednesbury
- ●●Goodchilds●●
- three Double Bedrooms
- Living Room
- Dining Room
- Downstairs Wet Room
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Enclosed Rear Garden

Offers in the Region Of £135,000

Stanbury Avenue,Wednesbury
- End terraced property
- Three spacious bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Family bathroom
- Downstairs WC
- Plentiful storage space
- Garage
- Double glazed and gas central heating

Offers in the Region Of £129,950

Greenway Road,Bilston
- Two Bedrooms
- Terraced House
- Still Under Guarantee
- Lounge / Diner
- Stylish Kitchen
- Guest Cloakroom
- Family Bathroom
- Garden

£127,000

NEW

Vicarage Road,Wednesbury
- ●●Goodchilds●●
- Three Bedroom
- Terraced
- Living Room
- Kitchen
- Rear Garden

Offers in the Region Of £115,000

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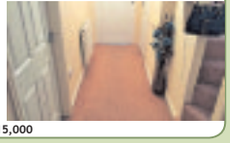
MIDLANDS LETTINGS AGENCY of the YEAR 2015 THE SUNDAY TIMES THE TIMES

43 DAY CHALLENGE

NEW

Pitchwood Close,Wednesbury
- ●●Goodchilds●●
- Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Living Room
- Kitchen
- Downstairs W.C
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazed



£115,000

Blenheim Drive,Wednesbury
- ●●Goodchilds●●
- Upper Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Kitchen
- Double Glazed
- Allocated Parking
- Must View
-

£85,000

NEW

Warren Farm Road,Birmingham
- ●●GOODCHILDS●●
- Upper Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Storage Cupboards
- Living Room
- Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating

Offers in the Region Of £75,000

Mytton Grove,Tipton
- UPPER FLOOR FLAT
- WELL PRESENTED
- ONE BEDROOM
- SHOWER ROOM
- RECEPTION HALL
- LOUNGE

Offers in Excess of £60,000

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- Telford
- Walsall
- Wednesbury
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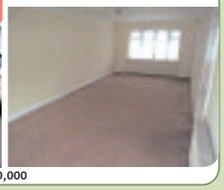
Westmore Way,Wednesbury

- DETACHED HOUSE
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- FITTED KITCHEN
- GAMES ROOM
- FIVE BEDROOMS
- TWO ENSUITES
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- GARAGE



£220,000

Copthall Road,Birmingham

- ●●Goodchilds●●
- Four Bedrooms
- Living/Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Downstairs Wet room
- Four Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazed

Offers in the Region Of £200,000

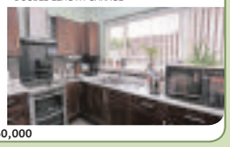
Elwells Close,Bilston

- ●●Goodchilds●●
- Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Detached Garage
- Kitchen

Offers in Excess of £169,995

Wellington Road,Wolverhampton

- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- PERIOD SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- BREAKFAST ROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
- FOUR BEDROOMS
- DOUBLE LENGTH GARAGE



£160,000

Park Street,Wednesbury

- SEMI DETACHED HOME
- POPULAR LOCATION
- ENTRANCE PORCH
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- FITTED KITCHEN
- UTILITY ROOM
- DOWNSTAIRS WC
- THREE BEDROOMS

£145,000

CANT SELL? LET GOODCHILDS SAVE THE DAY
CALL TODAY ON 0121 506 7670

St Christopher Drive,Wednesbury

- Three Bedrooms
- Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Semi Detached
- Well Presented
- Modern Throughout

Offers in Excess of £140,000

Hawkswood Drive,Wednesbury

- Deceptively Spacious
- Three Bedrooms
- Re-Styled Master En-Suite
- Re-Styled Bathroom
- Two Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- New UPVC Double Glazed Windows
- Well Presented

Fixed £134,950

Hydes Road,Wednesbury

- Conservatory
- Semi Detached
- Living Room
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Utility Room
- Three Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom

Offers in the Region Of £140,000

Crankhall Lane,Wednesbury

- Good Investment
- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Living Room
- Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Off Road Parking

Offers in the Region Of £100,000

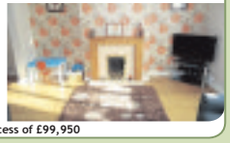
Peel Close,Wednesbury

- ATTRACTIVE LOCATION
- SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
- ENTRANCE PORCH
- FITTED KITCHEN
- CONSERVATORY
- TWO BEDROOMS
- FITTED BATHROOM
- OFF ROAD PARKING

Offers in the Region Of £115,000

Salter Road,Tipton

- MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOM
- KITCHEN/DINER
- MODERN FITTED BATHROOM
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- REAR GARDEN
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- DG & GCH



Offers in Excess of £99,950

Hales Road,Wednesbury

- ●●Goodchilds●●
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Rear Garden
-
-

Offers in the Region Of £95,000

Damson Wharf,Tipton

- Three Bedroom Three Storey
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Garage

Offers in the Region Of £94,000

Ashtree Grove,Bilston

- ●●Goodchilds●●
- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Off Road Parking

£100,000

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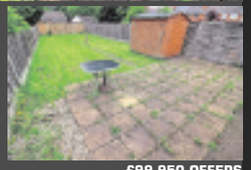
We Value Your Home

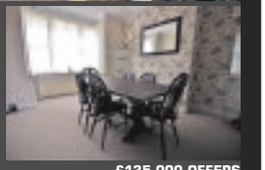
SKITTS
ESTATE AGENTS

FORGE ROAD WEDNESBURY
- Semi-detached house
- Two bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Off-road parking



£99,950 OFFERS

MOXLEY ROAD WEDNESBURY
- Impressive terraced home
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Off-road parking



£135,000 OFFERS

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wednesfield@skitts.net	01902 732324
willenhall@skitts.net	01902 631151
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lettings@skitts.net	0121 520 2255
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WESTBURY ROAD WEDNESBURY
- Semi-Detached home • Corner plot
- Lounge • Dining room
- Kitchen • Downstairs W.C.
- Bathroom • Rear garden

£110,000 OFFERS

DARBY ROAD WEDNESBURY
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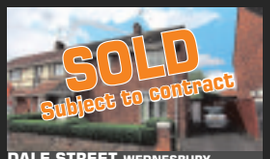
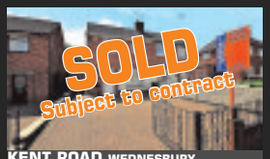
- Lounge • Dining room
- Kitchen • Bathroom
- Rear garden • No Chain

£120,000 OFFERS



DALE STREET WEDNESBURY
- Semi-detached house • Three bedrooms
- Lounge • Kitchen/Diner
- Bathroom • Large rear garden
- Off-road parking • Internal viewing required

£124,995 OFFERS



KENT ROAD WEDNESBURY
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- Lounge • Kitchen
- Bathroom • Rear garden
- Off-road parking • No chain

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- Rear Garden • No chain

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- Downstairs Wet room • Upstairs bathroom
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- Kitchen • Downstairs bathroom
- Rear garden • No chain

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- Bathroom
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- ✓ Visit Pinnawela elephant orphanage and a Tea Estate
- ✓ Safari at Yala National Park
- ✓ Services of a tour manager
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

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DAYS: 13 DEPARTS: VARIOUS DATES 2016/2017

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DAYS: 8 DEPARTS: VARIOUS DATES 2016/2017

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- ✓ Return flights
- ✓ 11 nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- ✓ Five lunches and three dinners
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- ✓ Visit Eco Termales hot springs
- ✓ See amazing birdlife on a Caño Negro marshland cruise
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- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

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Japan
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- ✓ Return flights
- ✓ 11 nights bed and breakfast accommodation
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DAYS: 13 DEPARTS: VARIOUS DATES 2016/2017

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The Ganges and Varanasi

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- ✓ Visits to the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Sarnath
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- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

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DAYS: 15 DEPARTS: VARIOUS DATES 2016/2017

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- ✓ Return flights
- ✓ 11 nights accommodation with nine lunches and seven dinners
- ✓ Explore the Mekong Delta, Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, Beijing and the Cu Chi tunnel complex
- ✓ Visit the Great Wall, Chengdu's Wenshu Temple, Jinli Street and the Giant Panda Breeding Research Centre
- ✓ Guided tour of Xi'an including the Terracotta Army
- ✓ Spend a night on a traditional junk, cruising Halong Bay
- ✓ Services of a tour manager
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

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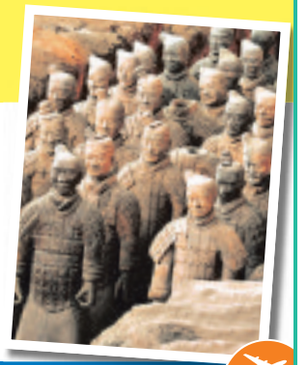

DAYS: 14 DEPARTS: VARIOUS DATES 2017

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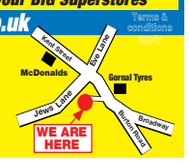

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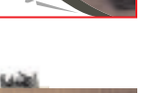

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SABINA, 35, outgoing attractive brunette, fit and carefree just looking for fun times without complications, maybe more later. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423003**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

EILEEN 49, lovely brunette, adventurous and eager to please seeks intelligent male to share the fun side of life together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423007**

KIM, 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 421657**

YOUNG, big boobed, single mum. Looking for a fun guy, but wants to be spoiled. Relationship ideally but happy with no strings fun. **Text only Mailbox: 5496828**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

ATTRACTIVE slim 54yr old female looking for caring genuine male 50-58 yrs to wine and dine with, share nice times with, please get in touch. **Text only Mailbox: 5395695**

KERRY, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 422363**

TINA, 41, WLTM Muslim men, Indian Pakistani Kurdish or Turkish for daytime or evening fun, can accommodate, can travel, very discreet. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422927**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

JACKIE, 49, dark hair, green eyes, cuddly build, likes going out, gym, reading, looking for an honest gentleman for friendship/possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422257**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

MANDY 44, fun flirty blonde, petite size 6-8, gorgeous green eyes seeks special male for friendship and uncomplicated love. Age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422863**

WENDY, mature, passionate ladylike divorcee seeks no strings casual friendship/fun with gent any age. **Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 421605**

FEMALE, 33, blue eyes, long blonde hair, pretty, slim, looking for Asian man to have some discreet no strings fun with. **Text only Mailbox: 5495296**

JESS, pretty blonde lady. 29yrs, feminine and caring. Loves older mature men who are worldly wise. Looks unimportant must have GSOH. **Text Only Box: 4000683**

GILL 61, slim dark eyed blonde seeks tall carefree male who is looking for someone special for fun times with no complications. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422843**

KATRIANA, professional sincere lady, 48yrs, loves to have a good time. Very sensual and loves men of all ages. Please text me for a chat. **Text Only Box 4148978**

CILLA, 40, tall blue eyed size 12 brunette, loves horses, country/beach walks, cosy nights in front of fire, good wine/food, WLTM similar male who appriecates my interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422009**

SINGLE 40s, seeks Indian Pakistani Kurdish males, for no strings, day or evening fun, I am discreet, I can travel and I can accommodate. Midlands/Stoke on Trent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422921**

ANNE, 40, pretty professional fun female with great curves, looking for fun and romance with down to earth male looking for similar. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422711**

FEMALE 38, large breasted, seeks Indian/Pakistani/Kurdish male for daytime fun. Can Travel/accom. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417233**

ALISON, lonely shy blue eyed blonde, 46, just wanting to be loved, looking for caring man to pamper in return for mutual TLC. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422859**

BARBARA, 44, friendly and outgoing but lonely, seeking similar lonely male to pamper, enjoy fun times and affection with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422839**

MAUREEN, 38, pretty brunette, new to the area and very lonely, looking to meet someone understanding for convenient friendship, 30-60yrs. Can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422815**

TINA, 43, young looking attractive single female looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421613**

JACKIE 40, slim brunette, with sultry green eyes seeks tall guy with nice eyes who understands women, for some really good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422819**

AFRICAN lady, 45 yrs, 5ft 8, slim, sensual, creative, interesting, looking for NSA fun with a man of means. Must be non-smoker. **Text only Mailbox: 5475056**

RITA 41, exotic olive skinned female, friendly, chatty, loves to entertain, seeks loving honest male to pamper and make happy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422723**

PETRIANA, 44, very attractive, voluptuous blonde, with old-fashioned values, seeks romantic down to earth male for a special relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422717**

PASSIONATE,broadminded curvy lady 67 seeks very assertive discreet younger male 25-45 for no strings fun, looks unimportant. **Text only Mailbox: 5480845**

JULIE, petite, slim, attractive blonde young looking early 40's, enjoys wining, dining, theatre seeking good looking romantic male, 45-55, for mutual spoiling. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422709**

LADY, 48, 5ft2, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes bowling, meals out, nights in, ice skating, looking for a toy boy, 30-42, who is fun and enjoys life to have a good time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422679**

WIDOW, 5ft2, looking for a gentleman for friendship, days out, meals out and for friendship and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422657**

JEAN, 75, black hair, hazel eyes, medium build, likes dancing, singing, gardening, bingo, meals out, days out, Scotland, WLTM a gentleman any age for company and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422651**

SARA 34yr old single mum looking for a genuine male to make me laugh again and help put the spark back into my life. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422541**

SARAH, brown hair, dark eyes, likes crafts, cooking, cinema, socialising, looking for a male friend, 30-35, possibly leading to relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422589**

JEAN, 75, lives in West Midlands, likes gardening, bingo, dancing, travelling, generally nice things, WLTM local gentleman for company and friendship, hoping to hear from you. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422571**

JOANNE, 48, curvy black female, likes cooking, cinema, socialising, seeking friendship leading to LTR, must be honest, romantic, caring and loyal and have a GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422633**

50YRS, old attractive lady. Sheila, caring honest, seeks discreet gent. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422469**

JOANNA, 49 years old, looking to meet a man for friendship 50/60 years old. **Text only Mailbox: 5428223**

JO 45, hardworking nurse with crazy sense of humour, looking for fun male with plenty of ideas to spice up her spare time. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422545**

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LORNA 28, sensual blue-eyed blonde with a beautiful smile, seeking intelligent guy in good shape for new experiences and fun loving. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422491**

MICHELLE, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422459**

Single Men

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IAN, 5ft8, medium build, ohoc, late 50s, likes most things, holidays, gardening, motorbikes, wltm similar aged lady, 50-60, with nice personality. **Tel: 0906 515 3040 Box 421345**

MALE, mid 60s, broadminded, WLTM female for intimate adult fun and pleasure, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422557**

JIMBO, friendly fun loving chap, 42yrs, own building company. Divorced, no kids. Wants a kind caring lady to spoil, any age, single mums welcome. **Text Only Box: 4036422**

TALL male 56, seeks close adult fun with open-minded woman, 40 to 75, any status or size. **Text only Mailbox: 5410860**

52 yr old male, average build, fit. Lonely, seeks a lady for fun times, LTR, soul mate, or discreet dates, can travel. **Text only Mailbox: 5418572**

1YR old male WLTM local lady for no strings fun and meets. Honest, kind, gentlemanly, can't accommodate. Coventry. **Text only Mailbox: 5498485**

MALE, 49, 5ft10, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, GSOH, OHAC, honest, romantic, animal lover, likes country pubs, walks along the canal and countryside, looking for somebody who is down to earth and fun loving. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396440**

GUY WLTM attractive smart lady, likes a dance or 2 and enjoys days out. **Text only Mailbox: 4823044**

STAFFORDSHIRE man, 40, loves sport, music, dancing, politics, looking for friendship, possibly relationship, any age/race/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422955**

CARING male, 45, kind, loving, animal lover, seeks female with similar qualities. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394149**

MALE 46, brown hair/eyes, average looks/build, loving, caring, understanding, seeks female to share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410845**

SHAUN, 49, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, 16 and a half stone, good sense of humour, animal lover with loads of love and security to give to the right person. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418783**

JOE, semi retired, young looking and acting, slim and fit, 5ft8, considered good company, looking for daytime meets. Let's see if we click. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422803**

SEMI retired business man, early 60s, well travelled, fit, tanned, good looking, solvent, very discreet, WLTM a female, 35-55, married or single, for wining, dining daytime fun. West Midlands or Staffs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422805**

MALE, 50s, tall, attractive, seeks mature female, 40-70, for mutual spanking. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422429**

DAVE, passionate and tactile, lives alone, seeking similar female for company, no strings necessarily. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422973**

TALL, attractive male, 62, GSOH, enjoys the normal things in life, going out to staying in, holidays etc, seeks lovely active petite/slimmish lady, 62-72, for an nice relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422931**

MARK, genuine male, 52, considered attractive, home owner, well travelled, likes keeping fit, looking for a lady for my soul mate, first time advertiser. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422935**

ANDY, single, 53, looking for a mature, sexy lady, age/looks unimportant, for fun and adventure. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422893**

RETIRED male, caring person, looking for friendship. I am into music and I am quite witty. I also like going out on a Saturday night! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422847**

GENUINE male, 52, attractive, home owner, well travelled, loves live music, keeping fit, first time advertiser hoping to find a soul mate, 35-50. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422933**

LIKEABLE easy going honest white male, slim build, likes sport, country walks, music, theatre, pubs, eating out WLTM attractive lady for friendship/relationship. **Text only Mailbox: 5489438**

NICK, 41, 5ft7, Taurus, n/s, handsome, likes keeping fit, seeks female 30-40s, for friendship and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421863**

RAY, late 50s, widow, 5ft10, average build, very sporty, broadminded, WLTM a nice lady, to go out, have a drink and see how we get on. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422789**

ALAN, 49, genuine, builder, 6ft, six pack, GSOH, likes a laugh, lives in Coventry, wishes to meet a woman of any age for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422755**

VERY broadminded male, looking for some adult fun with a hot sexy female, any age, preferably broadminded too. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422823**

SEMI retired business man, early 60s, well travelled, fit, tanned, good looking, solvent, very discreet, WLTM a female, 35-55, married or single, for wining, dining daytime fun. West Midlands or Staffs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422805**

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OAP discount. Recession Prices.
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SPECIAL OFFER
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READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

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ALL METAL GATES,RAILINGS, etc. Free quotes, also repairs & fitting. 07903 500642 24 hours.

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Careful Firm
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CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

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Grinsells Skip Hire.
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL **01902 319 191**
Brought to you by Express & Star

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STONES SKIP HIRE 0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875 www.stoneysskiphire.co.uk

tree services

BUDGET TREE SURGERY Tall or small. Conifers & hedge trimming. Shrubs pruned, tidy ups & make overs 01215053558/ 07936882552

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL
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ClassifiedAds

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

AIR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS, Antique guns, taxidermy- big bore guns, traps etc wanted. 07968 624202

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS

Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.

Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BORDER TERRIER bitch puppy, will make a loving pet, first innoculation, microhipped, parents can be seen, £400. 01543 677504 or 07943 699081.

JADE AND JASPER two 18month neutered cats, must go together. 07925 194970.

WEDNESBURY SANCTUARY Need homes for very friendly, mostly white kittens, £30 and also all black male. 0121 502 5027.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

commercial premises sale / let

BRIDGE TRADING ESTATE, St Peter's Road, Netherton. Industrial Unit - 2500 sq ft with small private yard, office and toilets. Roller shutter doors. Info: 01902 562222.

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties: 0121 520 5318.

6 Property

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

blinds

MADE-TO-MEASURE BLINDS SALE
UP TO 50% OFF*
MEASURING & FITTING INCLUDED
BLINDS | CURTAINS | SHUTTERS | CARPETS
HILLARYS
TO BOOK A **FREE** HOME APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR LOCAL ADVISOR CALL **0800 916 6563** OR VISIT **hillarys.co.uk**
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properties wanted

EVERY TIME!

WE PAY 100% of purchase price

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We buy any house

- FAMILY BUSINESS
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NEED TO SELL YOUR HOME FAST? NEED A FRESH START?

MARION PROPERTIES CAN HELP YOU!

Purchase agreed within days and completion on a date to suit

LOCAL COMPANY – FREE VALUATION, FREE LEGALS & FREE ADVICE

ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED

Why not call us today for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?

PHONE: 0121 405 0767

LINES OPEN 24/7

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

childcare

SEESAWS DAY NURSERY
Experienced, qualified **Nursery Nurse** to work with our pre school children - 3-5's at our Penn nursery. Must have a good knowledge of the EYFS and preferably experience of working with pre school children.
Holiday Club Manager required for our busy holiday club which operates from our Penn nursery during all school holidays. Must hold a Level 3 or equivalent.
For further information about either positions please call Janine on 01902 341676

drivers

CASUAL DRIVER/BEARER required for local funeral company covering Sandwell/Birmingham Tel 0121 533 0241

manufacturing

WELDERS REQUIRED FOR IMMEDIATE START
for a Steelworks in West Bromwich/Smethwick area.
A busy steel factory has multiple vacancies for **Experienced MIG Welders. ALSO vacancies for experienced FANUC Robotic Welder Operators**
Factory hours 8am - 5pm Mon-Fri with overtime available.
Rates negotiable depending on experience.
Please contact Dan on 0121 554 4404 or email CV to admin@premieras.co.uk

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BLOXWICH Walsall, room in large shared house, off road parking, no smoking, would suit 25-55 year old. £320pcm inc bills. 01922 476940.

LOOK

DOWN SIZING AND LOOKING FOR A CHANGE
Unique two bedroom modernised cottage courtyard garden, in centre of Historic Literary Lichfield, close for rail and bus stations, shops etc,
£170,000 Freehold.
Call 07948 996799.
Or Email
maryfebaker@outlook.com

EN-SUITE ROOMS, Tettenhall, from 65pw. Bills inc. 07539 615156. sterlinghouse@btconnect.com

ROOMS & STUDIOS from £65pw inc most bills, no deposit, available immediately! 07884 185580.

WILLENHALL to let 2 bed house, with off road parking and large garden, no DSS. £450. Telephone 07519 612053.

full time - general

BUSY PRINT COMPANY requires an enthusiastic person with some Screen printing experience.
Appropriate training will be given to the right individual. CVs via email to thope@ruddmacnamara.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT Computer Literate. Full & Part Time Positions. Required Tipton. Contact chatsworthp@btconnect.com

SPUNALLOYS
A Division of Westley Group

LARGE MANUAL CENTRE LATHE TURNER REQUIRED

Applicants must be able to read detailed drawings, set/machine using their own initiative, be familiar with open chuck work and capable of machining bushes/rings & shafts up to 1m diameter x 4m length
Excellent working conditions
Rates of pay (dependent upon experience)
Overtime expected as and when available
Predominantly double day shifts
Experience in CNC would be advantageous, but is not essential

Also

LARGE CNC MILLER REQUIRED

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Rates of pay (dependent upon experience)
Overtime expected as and when available
Predominantly double day shifts

If you are interested in applying for any of the above roles please email your CV (stating which vacancy you are applying for) to:
dee.wheeler@westleygroup.co.uk
or post to: Dee Wheeler at Westley Group
Doulton Road, Cradley Heath, West Midlands, B64 5QN

Closing date for applications will be Friday 15th July 2016

7 Jobs

building & construction

LABOURER / DRIVER required. Permanent position with overtime available, excellent rate of pay. MUST have clean driving licence, be qualified to drive 7.5 tonne with digital tachograph and have fork lift truck licence.
Telephone 0121 556 5445 or email angie@cab-joinery.co.uk

MAINTENANCE PERSON required for properties in Tettenhall. Good rates of pay. Email CV to sterlinghouse@btconnect.com

FOLLOWING EXPERIENCED GROUNDWORK PERSONNEL REQUIRED
FOR BIRMINGHAM BASED CIVIL ENGINEERING COMPANY:

- **SITE FOREMAN** (Commercial Units). Used to keeping records etc.
- **SITE FINISHING FOREMAN** (For Housing contracts).
- **360 DEGREE MACHINE DRIVERS**
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- **KERB LAYERS**

ALL POSITIONS MUST HAVE RELEVANT CSCS, CPCS AND CIS CARDS
NO AGENCIES OR LABOURERS NEED APPLY

TEL: 07415 008 491
EMAIL: **ground_worker_vacancies@yahoo.co.uk**

courses

MTS HGV training, Willenhall. Minibus, 7.5 tonne C1 & car & trailer 01902 866510 / 07807 035066

nursing & carers

CARE MANAGER & DEPUTY Residential Elderly Dementia, Darlaston. West Midlands. Must have experience and qualifications.
Telephone 07702 494525.

part time - general

PART TIME FUNERAL ARRANGER 20 hours per week covering Birmingham area, must have own transport 0121 533 0241

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

BMW Z3

2000 (X), 43,000 miles, FSH just done, fitted from showroom with BMW spoiler kit and full chrome kit, immaculate, looks £20k, metallic blue, blue hood, beige leather interior.
Much admired car,
£4,250.
First to see will buy.
0121 3578407. 07949 252290.

SELLING YOUR CAR?

We have a package to suit every budget.
Packages start from as little as
£21.00 for 6 nights
Plus
6 nights free if you do not sell.

CALL 01902 317878

CITROEN C1 998cc. 20,000 miles, red, one previous owner, 2012, showroom condition. first to see will buy. £4,300 ovno. 07710 997291.

FORD FOCUS 2009 Estate diesel, 12 months MoT, service history, 4 new tyres, immaculate condition, £2,900 ono. 07742 904992.

LAND ROVER FREELANDER TD4, 5 door, 06 reg, lady owner, excellent condition, black, £4,500 ono. 01902 851372 or 07794 450416.

NISSAN MICRA ACCENTA
CVT Auto, petrol, white,1198cc, 17,340 miles. Taxed till Feb 2017, Serviced on 8.3.2016. Genuine reason for sale.
Bargain £5,300
01543 574523.

RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 Dynamique, 2008, black, long MoT, a/c, e/w, e/m, 61k, good condition, £1,550 ono. 01902 851971.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1600 2005, 1 owner from new, low miles, 43,000 miles, nine months MoT, £1,625. 07443 602022.

VAUXHALL ASTRA ESTATE 2012, Exclusive, CDTi, Eco Flex, 1.7, silver, full MoT. £5,000 ovno. 07836 568903.

VAUXHALL TIGRA 56 reg, excellent condition, blue, MoT Jan 2017, low miles, alloys, usual extras, £2,995 ono. 07986 177762.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

FIAT PUNTO V Reg., 12 months MoT, low mileage, nice and clean, first to see will buy, £500 o.n.o. 07712 347167 or 01902 471257.

FIAT STYLO 1.4 2006, 4 new tyres, MoT May 2017, new exhaust, 75,000 miles, £435 ono. Telephone 07759 804772

FORD FIESTA 3-dr, MoT till Sep, one owner from new, clean and tidy, £675 ono. 07584 191793.

FORD FOCUS estate, 1.8 2000, zetec, silver, 5 alloys, MoT August 16, needs attention, 136k miles hence, £300 ono. 07742 944170.

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 2001, 74,000 miles, Silver, electric windows, MOT Nov. Reliable clean car. £695 ono 07843306447.

RENAULT MEGANE, Authentique, red, 03 plate, 3 months MoT, £450 ono. 01922 417896.

SAAB 9-3 VECTOR Automatic, 54 reg, 150bhp, silver, 90k, FSH, MoT, excellent condition. £595. 07498 395576.

TOYOTA AVENSIS T3-X 2005,Diesel 50+mpg, 164K miles, motorway miles, AC, FSH, MoT, cambelt @150K, all receipts, very good conditon, genuine calls only.
£599 ono
07405 196046

BMA Est. Here 25 Years
Quality Cars From £500
Full Mot's and Warranties
OPEN EVERY DAY
07956 988517
Dale Street, Bilston, WV14 7JY

driving tuition

Homer's
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ADI/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10
07432 458100 / 01562 870050
01384 234954 / 0121 5640090
01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Evening 07813 184611
Oldbury Area.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, 01902 597035.

spares & accessories

accessories & services

MGF/TF HOOD rear windows, zip in type, black, 1 plastic, £90, 1 glass heated, £150. Excellent condition. 0121 5857210 / 07763 226415.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Ebenezer Street, West Bromwich) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2016, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Ebenezer Street, West Bromwich. The maximum duration is 18 months,the road closure is expected to be closed as necessary for the full 18 month period, effective from 11/07/16. Traffic will be diverted via Heronville Road, Norbury Road, New Street, Harvills Hawthorn, Dial Lane and vice-versa. Purpose – work associated with a new housing development by Lovell.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Woods Lane, Cradley Heath) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2016, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Woods Lane, Cradley Heath. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 17/07/15 (9.00hrs), effective from 16/07/15 (21.00hrs). Traffic will be diverted via Cradley Road, Chester Road and vice-versa. Purpose – maintenance work to the railway line by Network Rail.

10 Personals

personal

Angels
The largest adult superstore in the Midlands
• Adult Toys • Sexy Lingerie
Grand New Open
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01922 635544

LONELY WIDOWED LADY 73
w.l.t.m. tall, smart gent for friendship, meals and days out, a drink and a chat. Maybe weekends or holidays, later. G.S.O.H is essential.
Cannock and surrounding areas.
Recent photo appreciated and returned.
Box Number P20427 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

SINGLE GENT 49
Solvent, slim build, ok looking, with quiet demeanour and sense of humour looking to share days/nights out with a sincere lady, hopefully leading to a long term relationship.
Photo appreciated and returned.
Box Number C20419 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

sports clubs

TIPTON YOUTH MJPL
Under 15s
2016-2017 Season
(School Year 10)
Tipton Youth FC is currently the largest youth Football Club organisation within the borough of Sandwell having 16 Junior and Youth teams with ages 7 to 17 and senior squads.
We are a recognised FA Charter Standard Club with all our Coaches and Team Managers.
CRB registered and FA Licensed with some holding qualifications up to UEFA B Level.
We provide an excellent 1st Class 3G modern training and Match Day Playing venue with facilities supported by our Partners The RSA Academy and The Tipton Sports Academy.
We are seeking to strengthen our current Saturday MJPL under 15's squad by recruiting talented and committed players to join us for our 2016 -17 season.
Throughout July and August we are inviting players who feel they have the ability, commitment and dedication to come and join us during our training sessions and show us what you have to offer.
To Register your attendance and gain further information please contact us on the details below.
Spencer Weston - Under 15's Team Manager & Coach
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Email us - tiptonyouthfc@gmail.com
Visit us www.tiptonyouthfootballclub.co.uk
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ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, **SELL** LOCAL

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

TSI engine is impressive

By John Griffiths

For years car makers have been striving for new technological ways to produce cleaner, more economical cars that are better for your pocket and for the planet.

Diesel cars are, for a variety of reasons, losing some of their gloss, electric cars are getting better but still have a way to go and hydrogen fuel cells could be years away.

Hybrids are one way of saving fuel without sacrificing too much by way of performance, but there's another way – one being developed by Ford, Suzuki, Renault Volkswagen and others.

The method is to take a small capacity petrol engine and to turbocharge it, forcing more air into thecylinder to give you more bang for your buck (as they say across the Atlantic) for better performance, but saving on the sort of fuel consumption you'd get from a bigger, normally aspirated engine.

For Volkswagen (and its Audi, Skoda and SEAT associates) this is the acclaimed TSI engine, which combines direct petrol injection with turbocharging.

It's latest incarnation is the three cylinder, 1.0 litre unit fitted in the seventh generation Golf: the first time VW has used petrol power for a car with its 'Bluemotion economy tag.

There's a useful comparison to make here as this 999cc engine is, essentially, the same as the non- turbo unit used in the company's little Up! City car.

In the Up! it produces 60PS of power: the new Golf's TSI boasts 115PS. Thanks to the turbo the latter also has 200Nm of torque, double that of the Up! But it doesn't stop there: the heavier Golf, with an official test average of 65.7mpg and a tax-busting 99g/km of CO2 emissions, is actually slightly leaner and greener than its city slicker cousin. And, due to its economy, the Golf Bluemotion has a theoretical range of 900 miles between fill-ups.

It's not entirely down to the engine, of course, as a Bluemotion model is a little lighter than a standard (and especially a diesel) Golf and has a number of aerodynamic tweaks to the body work to help it slip through the air more cleanly.

The new model, in Match trim, isn't exactly cheap at £20,765 but VW must be confident that the savings on fuel and tax will be enough to persuade buyers it's a reasonable option.

Build quality and driving dynamics are typically Golf: there's little more that needs to be said.

What is impressive is just how well this mere 999cc manages to hustle a car of this size along. It is lively: it's 0 to 62mph time is 9.7 seconds.

But you wouldn't expect those choosing an economy car to be regularly competing in the traffic lights grand prix: do that too often and your mpg figures will soon tumble.

It's all about how the Golf Bluemotion wafts along in normal road driving, the extra torque endowing it with the relaxed, refined character of a car with another cylinder and many more cubes under the bonnet. The slick six-speed manual gearbox also helps, for example if you plan a quick overtake.

It's a well-equipped car, too, with all the expected electronic wizardry to keep you safe and enhance its roadholding and handling.

What is impressive is just how well this mere 999cc manages to hustle a car of this size along

Electronic stability control, traction control and an electronic differential lock are standard. ABS and hydraulic brake assist are supplemented by pre-crash occupant protection and post collision braking systems, as well as seven airbags.

A radar operated active cruise control system is designed to keep you a safe distance from vehicles on front.

Inside, you get air conditioning, electric windows and mirrors, heated front seats, automatic headlights and wipers and heated front seats, as well of an array of storage solutions around the cabin.

The central touchscreen controls the satnav, audio and connectivity systems, and comes with a three year subscription of Car-Net which gives the driver online access to a range of information from traffic problems to weather and where you might find a parking space. The Bluemotion also comes with VW's standard three years/60,000 miles warranty and comes with a reasonable 14E insurance rating.

The impressive TSI engine is at the heart of this new family hatchback, creating a car of recognised quality which mean significant savings over many of its competitors.

HONDA
The Power of Dreams

Clever Honda Thinking.
The CR-V is full of it.

See what the CR-V can do at Brindley Honda.

Exclusive offer to Brindley Honda £5,000*deposit contribution§. 5.9% APR Representative. 5 Years' Servicing for £555** Price includes metallic paint.

Model	OTR	Customer deposit	Customer deposit %	HUK contribution	Brindley deposit contribution	Amount of credit	36 monthly payments	Final payment inc option fee	Total financial amount payable	APR representative	Interest rate fixed p/a	Option to purchase fee	Duration of agreement	Contracted mileage	Excess mileage +vat
CR-V 1.6 i-DTEC SE Plus (Honda Connect) 2WD Man	£26,610.00	£4,000.00	34%	£3,000.00	£2,000.00	£17,610.00	£249.83	£11,190.83	£29,194.71	5.9%	5.77%	£10	37 months	10,000 miles	4.58p/mile

BRINDLEY HONDA Visit: www.brindley-honda.co.uk

Walsall Road, Cannock WS11 0JP
01543 406608

Millennium Park, Swan Lane, West Bromwich B70 0NR
0121 629 0989

West Street, Stafford Road Wolverhampton WV10 6HT
01902 690600

Fuel consumption figures for the CR-V SE 1.6 i-DTEC 2WD Manual mpg (l/100km): Urban 61.4 (4.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 64.2 (4.4). CO_2 emissions: 115g/km.

Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience. Model Shown: CR-V SE 1.6 i-DTEC 2WD Manual in Lunar Silver Metallic at £26,610 On The Road (OTR). **Terms and Conditions:** New retail CR-V ordered from 01 July 2016 to 31 July 2016 and registered by 31 July 2016. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Not to be used along with any other offers currently available. ***Honda Deposit contribution:** £3,000 Honda deposit contribution on CR-V models purchased through Honda Aspirations, Brindley Honda deposit contribution £2000 (exclusive to Brindley Honda). **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** Minimum customer deposit 0%, maximum customer deposit 30%. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. **Brindley Garages Ltd trading as Brindley Honda are credit brokers, not lenders.** Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. Cain Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1HL. Honda Finance Europe plc is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Financial Services Register number 312541. ****5 Years' Servicing includes:** All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicle's service book, will be covered for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. 5 Years' Servicing is optional. It is being offered for £555 including VAT (usual value £1,430 including VAT, resulting in a £875 saving for the customer) and is available to finance or non-finance customers. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle. Cars must be ordered and delivered by 31 July 2016. §Offer excludes Black Edition.

Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, July 7, 2016

Ford goes big in the SUV sector with Edge

By Matt Kimberley

Designed to appeal to audiences on both sides of th Atlantic, Ford's Edge is the biggest SUV to come from the brand in several years.

From the concept to the end product, the Edge is a new thing. It's Ford of Europe's first large SUV, based on Mondeo undergarments, but with four-wheel-drive, two powerful diesel engines (with more under consideration) and a new, premium shtick with which the American company wants to poke the German luxury brands.

It's part of the OneFord programme, so it's built in North America and exported all over the globe with minor changes to suit different markets. We awkward Europeans with our bumpy B-roads and our derestricted autobahns had a big say in how the suspension and handling were tuned.

If you're thinking it looks a bit 'Murican in the pictures, you're not alone. But the blocky styling and slightly in-your-face dark wheels and detailing of the range-topping Sport model sing a pretty good tune in the metal. The Titanium model is a bit more reserved; a bit more middle-of-the-road. It's improbably wide, though, with a high and highly-shaped bonnet, so it looks even bigger than it actually is.

While the build and materials quality is for the most part a big step up for Ford, it's competing with S line Audi Q5s and mid-grade BMW X3s. Even the entry-level Jaguar F-Pace is a rival. Next to those badges, the Blue Oval can't really compete.

Usefulness

Where the Edge scores points is for its clever design, which squeezes loads of usefulness into its 4.8-metre length. There are bag hooks in the boot, a spare wheel, a cabin wide enough for three kids to sit side-by-side on bean bags and enough clever storage spaces to make it a nightmare for customs officials at border crossings.

The amount of empty air around the front seats is amazing. Even the current Mr Universe wouldn't have shoulders broad enough to fill the width. Including the stubby mirrors, the Edge is well over two metres wide, and it feels it on the road, but it does create an implausibly spacious cabin.

Driven back-to-back, the more powerful diesel offers noticeably more low-down punch. The twin-clutch automatic gearbox helps make the most of that, too, only kicking down when your throttle pedal inputs clearly ask for it. The 2.0-litre diesel might not be the most refined on the market, but Ford's soundproofing and standard-fit Active Noise Control suppress wind and road noise like you wouldn't believe. The quiet at motorway speeds (and beyond) is uncanny.

The Sport's variable-ratio steering is frustrating, as is every other system like it. Approach the same corner at different speeds and you'll need two entirely different steering inputs to negotiate it. The standard set-up is slower to turn the car, but feels more consistent, despite a strong urge to self-centre. Neither transmits any meaningful road feel.

Sport models have a harder suspension system that permits less body roll, but rides with a jiggly edge on its 20-inch wheels that's missing from the Titanium and its 19s. As a trade-off the Sport feels more planted in corners, and has the more supportive seats for the job.

The model to go for is the Titanium with the Lux pack, the more powerful engine and the automatic gearbox, although to create it you also need to add the full-fat and rather bass-heavy Sony stereo system. All of a sudden it's a £37,000 car. Add LED headlights for another £1,000 on top of that. The panoramic roof is £800. The £40,000 barrier is within fairly easy reach. Ouch.

Clearly a Ford enthusiast, of which there are many, will look at the Edge as a proper family car. And it is. It's America-big, so feels a bit wide for a lot of minor European roads, but the amount of space and practicality is incredible. If the German options just don't light your candle, the Edge offers a new choice.

This car summed up in a single word: Stable

If this car was a: mythical figure it might be Hercules: broad, steadfast and with many strengths

TESTED

Ford Edge 2.0 Duratorq 210PS AWD Titanium, from £34,495

Engine: Four-cylinder turbodiesel producing 207bhp and 332lb/ft

Transmission: Six-speed automatic driving all four wheels

Performance: Top speed 131mph, 0-62mph in 9.4 seconds

Fuel Economy: 48.9mpg (19in wheels)

Emissions: 149g/km (19in wheels

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4 door Auto, Superlative Luxury, 28,600 miles
£14,995

2010/10 BMW 5 SERIES 3.0 535D

4 door, Full Leather, Sat Nav, Parking Sensors, 54,000 miles
£12,650

2011/11 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE

5 door, One lady owner, only 2,200 miles from new
£6,495

Vauxhall Ampera Selection
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2014/14 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 ELITE 5 door, Petrol, Leather Trim, Met Blue, 13,000 miles £9,495
2013/63 VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 CDTi SE 5 door, Black, 18,000 miles £9,995
2015/65 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 ELITE Petrol, 5 door, White, 15,000 miles £10,995
2015/64 VAUXHALL ASTRA CDTi SRi ESTATE Silver, 16,000 miles £10,995
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2013/63 VAUXHALL CORSA SRi 1.4 3 door, Black, 17,000 miles £6,995
2013/63 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 ENERGY 5 door, Blue Metallic, 17,000 miles £6,995
2013/13 FIAT 500 LOUNGE 1.2 White, 14,300 miles £6,995
2013/63 VAUXHALL CORSA LTD EDITION Black, 33,000 miles £7,995
2014/14 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 TURBO Black Edition, 7,000 miles £8,495
2015/15 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SRi 5 door, Silver, 14,000 miles £9,995
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2015/65 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE 5 door, Black, 13,000 miles £10,495
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2014/14 VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.7 CDTi TECHLINE 5 door, Sat Nav, 20,000 miles £11,995
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2012/12 MG 6 TURBO Grey, 30,000 miles £6,495
2008/08 MAZDA MX5 CONVERTIBLE Grey, Alloys, 52,000 miles £6,495
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2007/57 NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA CDTi Grey, 62,000 miles £6,750
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2015/65 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE 1.2 ATTIVO 5 door, Reverse Camera, 5,600 miles £7,995
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2012/62 FORD FOCUS ZETEC ESTATE 1.6 TDCi 29,000 miles £8,995
2014/14 RENAULT CLIO 1.2 DYNAMIQUE MEDIA NAV 5 door, White, 28,000 miles £8,995
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Citygo real pleaser for the driver and pocket

By John Griffiths

Yorkshire has some fantastic scenery and, luckily for the motoring enthusiast, it's criss-crossed by some pretty amazing, bendy roads.

So, even when you're driving what is clearly designated a city car these open roads are actually the perfect place to put it through its paces.

This was the latest, and easily the prettiest, version of the Skoda Citygo, and even though it is kitted out with the latest technology such as touchscreen and satnav, this actually seemed a bit of a drive down memory lane for me.

It took me back more than 40 years to the quieter roads of rural Shropshire and the sheer delight of driving a classic Mini.

Outright performance just isn't an issue as you tackle bend after bend, revelling in the pin sharp steering, excellent agility and wheel at each cornerstability of the small but perfectly formed car.

All good features around town, of course, where the excellent all-round visibility (and lack of big overhangs to catch the unwary) makes it a breeze to manouvre and park.

Citygo isn't new, of course, and mechanically it's virtually identical to its VW Group city slicker sibling, the Up! And the Seat Mii.

But my ride for a couple of hours was a new special edition, the Citygo Monte Carlo, named in honour of Skoda's sporting heritage including its win n the famous rally in 1936, which first spawned the badge on the company's Popular Sport Monte Carlo a year later.

It was reintroduced in 2011 as a Fabia special edition, and now versions of the Yeti have gone the full Monte too.

As for Citygo, it's already proved it's practicality and appeal to the heads of buyers with a City Car of the Year title. The Monte Carlo is an appeal to the heart, with extra, eye-catching red and black colour scheme (inside and out), sports styling, and extra equipment.

As a means of attracting young buyers, it's a shrewd one: for under £11,000 it's affordable, economy is over 50mpg, you tax liability is low and, best of all, there's an impressively low group two insurance rating.

It comes with front and rear spoilers, a rear disfusser and lowered suspension which not only turn the standard Citygo into eye-candy, it also helps to give the Monte Carlo its excellent handling characteristics. It also comes with 15-inch alloy wheel, fog lights, and sunset glass.

Inside the red and black theme continues with a sports steering wheel with red sticthing, glass black dash inserts, special badging and bespoke, sports-style seats and a comprehensive satnav, trip computer and infotainment system.

These features come on top of the standard Citygo SE specification. A convenience pack -including cruise control and rear parking sensors – were options added to the test car to take the price up to £11,325.

The Monte Carlo's engine is the standard Citygo 60PS petrol version (a 75PS option is available in other versions) which is capable of averaging nearly 63mpg according to official tests, with a low CO2 rating of 105g//km.

The benchmark 0 to 62mph takes 14.4 seconds. The engine does make itself heard when you're pressing hard to get up to motorway speed, or using the lower gears to set yourself up for corners.

But it's smooth and rather growly – not at all harsh and, indeed, an essential part of the experience for the keen driver.

The ride on some of those less than perfect Yokshire B-roads was surprisingly composed, particularly for a small car with sports suspension: full marks there to the engineers.

The Monte Carlo will no doubt add youth appeal to the competent and cheap to run Citygo range: but from my experience you don't have to be young to appreciate. It still brought a big grin to my face!

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Tough and hardworker with plenty of comfort

By Ian Donaldson

IN the world of cars everyone's looking to smaller engines. Yes, you've guessed why; they use less fuel, or they ought to.

In the world of light commercial vehicles Volkswagen has decided to do things differently. Its latest Amarok pick-up, due here before the end of the year, has an engine half as big again as the unit in the truck you can buy today.

Out go the current 2.0 litre, four cylinder diesels, with 140 or 180 horsepower and in comes a 3.0 litre powerplant with six cylinders (borrowed from some Audis) and with enough performance to make it the GTI of truckland.

And the reason for this surprising looking move to more cylinders and more ccs?

Buyers of the first Amaroks were happy to pay more for what they saw as a premium product (which it was), but reckoned that should mean more power than was available from a mere 2.0 litres.

Then, by the end of this year the old, smaller engine would need to be expensively upgraded anyway, to meet tougher new Euro 6 pollution limits.

The official fuel consumption test all new vehicles have to take reckons the bigger-engined Amarok will manage 37.2mpg and nip under 200g/km of tailpipe emissions (just, at 199g/km). That is actually a bit thirstier than before but a little less polluting.

Revised

Those are figures for the beefiest of three engines that will eventually power this heavily revised four door load lugger.

This 224 horsepower V6 TDI is coming first and takes the Amarok to 120mph and from zero to 62mph in a spritely 7.9 seconds.

Some time in 2017 the Hanover-built Amarok will be joined by engines with 163 and 204 horsepower and, presumably, still better economy figures and a lower price tag – the precise sizes of which will not be revealed until nearer the launch date. Current prices start at £25,419 and expect a gentle uplift.

VW thinks the new model will sell to the same sort of person, attracted by something that is both technically advanced and tough with a solid helping of comfort thrown in.

Minor changes to the outside include new bumpers and radiator grille and a new emphasis on horizontal lines that make an already wide machine look wider still.

New alloy wheels and a third brake light with LED technology will also help the anorak distinguish the newcomer from the older model. Oh, and new front mud flaps cut the aero drag.

Posh

There are bigger changes inside, where an already car-like feel is reinforced by a new dashboard where we find a touchscreen, radio and navigation, along with standard Bluetooth and the option of CarNet and App Connect systems.

We Brits like our Amaroks pretty posh, so most will have auto gears and be in top trim level with the second most powerful engine.

On the smooth roads around Munich, where the pick-up is being launched to the world's motoring press, the most powerful model pulled like a train and made no more noise than a decently refined car, which it resembled to the tiniest detail inside.

Its simple (or crude in modern car terms) solid rear axle and cart springs only betrayed their lack of sophistication on concrete sections, where they set up a noticeable bobbing motion.

A trip read out of precisely 30mpg seemed respectable – a moderately challenging off road course proved that the Amarok will shrug off anything an owner is likely to throw at his dream machine – but the 7.4mpg recorded on the rough stuff might be incentive enough in itself not to risk a scratch.

TESTED

Volkswagen Amarok 3.0 TDI Highline

Engine: 3.0 litre diesel engine, 221bhp

Warranty: Three years, 100,000 miles

Economy: The Amarok can do 37.2mpg officially

Insurance group: TBC

Price: TBC

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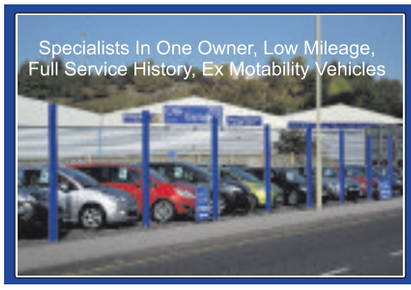

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Sandwell and Walsall battle it out on the track during the Black Country School Games

Jaiden Gamble of George Salter Academy races home

Gabriel Stone, of Whitgreave Infants, Wolverhampton, does the racket balance

A Walsall youngster takes the javelin challenge

Games on! Sport is the winner for youngsters

MORE than 1,400 youngsters from across the region joined forces for a festival of sport at the Black Country School Games in Walsall.

A host of different sports were on offer for the primary and secondary school pupils, who all came through qualifying stages to reach the final showpiece.

The Black Country School Games was being held for the seventh time and saw 9,000 children participate this year alone.

The event has grown at such a rapid rate over its short existence that the 2016 finals – which were held at the University of Wolverhampton's Walsall campus – welcomed their 10,000th competitor. Reedswood Primary's Paris Ebbans was awarded a unique trophy by a special guest, Wolverhampton's double Paralympic athlete Darren Harris, to mark the milestone.

Artificial

In all, 82 schools, from the boroughs of Walsall, Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton battled it out across 12 different sports, including athletics, rounders, multi-skills, cricket, tri-golf, rugby, football, dodgeball and a triathlon. These were contested in the sports hall, on the artificial pitches and full-scale athletics track.

At the end of it all, the green shirts of Sandwell lifted the trophy.

Black Country BeActive headed the event. Paul Wicker, one of the organisers from Walsall Council, said: "It's sport for young people, delivered by young people."

He added: "The idea is to create a mini-Olympics for the Black Country, and to have an opening ceremony it adds to it and makes it different for them."

The first Games were held in 2010 at Wolverhampton's Aldersley Leisure Village. BeActive director Simon Hall has seen first-hand how the Black Country School Games have grown in stature.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Lewis Cox

"The Games are all about young people setting out what they want to achieve in school sports in the region."

"We're not looking for the most elite athletes in schools, we're looking for ways to get more children active in sport," he said. "The Black Country Games gives young people a chance to experience that sort of multi-event experience, not quite the Olympics, but something they can really treasure.

"What's been really special is being able to identify the pupil who was the 10,000th competitor, which is a huge achievement.

"The Games are all about young people setting out what they want to achieve in school sports in the region."

A former ambassador for the Games was Joel Richards, who was tragically killed in Tunisia while on a family holiday just over a year ago.

Joel attended Stuart Bathurst Cathlolic School in Wednesbury and played a huge part in local sport in the Black Country.

The day's trophy, lifted by Sandwell, was named after the former Black Country referee and presented by Joel's brother Owen, also a recently qualified official. Wicker explained how the games have developed and how the organisers and leaders try to follow the mentality of school sports while delivering such an event.

Friends and volunteers of Joel were gathered to raise funds for the 'Smile for Joel' appeal, a charity that aids victim support.

Kallianne Titley and her brother were friends with Joel and she explained how such a monumental sporting event proved a perfect fit.

She said: "Sport was what Joel did best and that's what he wanted people to do.

Remember

"Every time I saw Joel it was through sport, whether it was helping him by being a guinea pig when he finished his A-Levels or organising an event or football, it was what he did.

"There is no better way to remember him. I was younger and competed here when he was an ambassador so I know he'd be really proud of what everyone's doing."

Schools representing Sandwell were: George Salter, Sandwell Academy, Q3 Academy, Bristnall Hall, Uplands Manor, Moat Farm, Pennyhill, Oldbury, St Phillips, Langley, Gelebfields, Tipton Green, Lyng, Hargate, Abbey Junior, St Pauls, ACE Academy, St Michaels, Hollylodge and Wood Green Academy.

Schools representing Dudley: Leasowes, Old Swinford, Bishop Milner, Ellowes, Manor Way, Glynne, Windsor, Dudley Wood, Woolescote, Milking Bank, Maidensbridge, Church of the Ascension, Hagley, Sutton, Summerhill and OSH.

Schools representing Walsall: St Francis, Shire Oak Academy, Pool Hayes, Jane Lane, Castle, Lindens, Barcroft, Blue Coat, Walsall Academy, Ormiston Shelfield Community Academy, Whetstone Field, New Invention, Holy Trinity, Birchills, Butts, Reedswood, Cooper and Jordan, Beacon, St John's, The Jane Lane School, The Streetly Academy and Brownhills.

Schools representing Wolverhampton: Highfields, St Peter's Collegiate, Wolverhampton Grammar School, Oak Meadow, Fieldview, Uplands Junior, St Michaels Catholic, Northwood Park, Wolverhampton Girls, St Peter and St Paul, Whitgreave Infant, Woodthorne, Bilston, Christ Church, St Stephens, St Andrews, St Michaels Q of E, Aldersley, Moreton, Our Lady and St Chad, Colton Hills, South Wolverhampton and Bilston Academy, Coppice and The Royal School.

The 100m is raced on the track at the University of Wolverhampton's Walsall campus

The chase is on for Bradley Walsh from Field View School, Wolverhampton in the hoop run

Sport

Let the Games begin for school youngsters

Page 47

All change as relegated club rebuilds

Gary Summers, Mat Hardcastle, Martin Brotherton, Neil Haines, Luke Pittaway, Lee Allwood and Kevin Ferris

FOLLOWING relegation last season Wednesbury Rugby Club have had a change of personnel in some of their key playing roles.

Coach Gary Summers and first team manager Neil Haines are staying at the club, but the playing captains have changed. For the first team, Lee Allwood takes over as captain with Luke Pittaway as vice. They will be joined by the seconds' team of Martin Brotherton and Kevin Ferris and Lee Baker and Mat Hardcastle for the vets.

Summers said: "This is going to be a season of rebuilding and attracting new blood to the club."

Wednebury RUFC are looking for new players, especially ones with playing experience, but also people who have never played but would like to give the game a go.

Benefits include all coaches being RFU accredited, all-weather 3G training pitch and a qualified physiotherapist available for all players. Also, free annual subs for the first year for all new players.

Call Gary on 07946 455020 or Neil on 07950 505171.

Brummies haunted by old boy Ellis

BIRMINGHAM saw their unbeaten record come to an end in dramatic fashion as they suffered a last-gasp 46-43 defeat against Eastbourne at Arlington.

The Surestop Brummies led for the majority of Saturday's meeting but a 5-1 in a tense heat 15 decider condemned them to their first defeat of the campaign.

Adam Ellis came back to haunt his former club, striking a faultless 15-point maximum for the Eagles including crucial victories in heats 13 and 15.

Team boss Graham Drury said: "We were in a very good position, and we had a game plan throughout the meeting that was going well.

"We can't have any complaints, it was a tremendous match and to take Eastbourne to the last heat at Arlington was a great effort from everybody."

EASTBOURNE 46: Adam Ellis 15, Jake Knight 10+2, Georgie Wood 9, Luke Harris 6+1, Ben Hopwood 6+1, Tom Brennan 0, Gary Cottham r/r.

BIRMINGHAM 43: Tom Bacon 8+1, Danyon Hume 8+1, Tom Perry 8+1, Jack Parkinson-Blackburn 8+1, Darryl Ritchings 6+1, Dan Halsey 3+1, Jack Smith 2+1.

The high-flying Brummies were resuming their National League Knockout Cup campaign against Belle Vue at Perry Barr last night (Wednesday

Meanwhile. the Travel Plus National League fixture at Rye House, scheduled for Sunday, July 17, has been cancelled.

The Surestop Brummies were due to visit Hoddesdon before their clash against Kent the following day. However, due to a clash of fixtures with the Premier League, Rye House are looking for a new date.

Drury said: "It's really frustrating. We'd planned it so that a number of our supporters could make a long weekend of it and travel down to both matches."

The Brummies will visit the new National Speedway Stadium on Saturday, August 6, but for the second leg of the Knockout Cup tie.

Yozza's on target as England clinch Six Nations crown

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes was the star performer as a five-man England team were crowned BDO Six Nations champions for the third year in a row.

It was the first time 'Yozza' had been involved in the competition and he was named Player of the Tournament after winning 17 of his 20 games.

Ireland were the hosts with the event taking place at the Great Southern Hotel in Sligo. It took Hughes's number of appearances for his country to 12.

The 30-year-old, ranked No 5 by the BDO, lined up alongside captain Scott Mitchell, Mark McGeeney, James Hurrell and Dennis Harbour.

'Yozza' said: "I'm used to winning matches with England and all of the other countries seems to step up their game against us.

"It still means a lot to me to play for my country and I always consider it an honour. When I started playing darts, it was my only real ambition.

"I've been performing well of late so, hopefully, I can keep that up. I'm determined to keep on improving and achieve whatever I can in the sport."

SUMMERS SET FOR SCORCHER

WEST Bromwich's Jack Summers is determined to make up for lost time when he returns to the ring at Walsall Town Hall on Saturday night.

The 21-year-old featherweight has spent nine months out of action but is ready for war against the well-travelled Brett Fidoe.

Undefeated prospect Summers has won both of his professional contests on points so far, outscoring Qasim Hussain and Russ Midgley. He is now part of the supporting cast to the top-liner of the 'Summer Scorcher' show, promoted by Errol Johnson's Black Country Boxing.

Opponent, Wordsley-born Fidoe, comes to the town hall for this 35th professional bout.

Summers has prepared accordingly and can't wait to get in there, as he completes the hard work in the gym to get him set for fight night.

Experienced

He said: "I've been out of the ring longer than I wanted to be, but I'm ready for Saturday now. I last fought in October, so I've had an intense camp for this one.

"Training has gone really well. I've never felt better. I'm stronger than ever, faster than ever and mentally and physically ready.

"Brett is very experienced and comes to fight. I've prepared myself for a war, because that's what I'm expecting.

"I'm looking forward to fighting at the Town Hall. It's where I've had my last two fights and I'm ready to make it a hat-trick of wins."

Fellow West Bromwich boxer Tom Stokes will be in seventh heaven if he can keep up his winning streak on the bill.

The undefeated middleweight will be looking to add to his six straight wins since turning pro. All of his victories have come at the town hall, the last outing an entertaining scrap against the seasoned Luke Allon in March.

Allon tried to bully him and it backfired, being sent to his knees in the third round from a right hook to the body that rattled his ribcage. Stokes took the bout on points.

Now Stokes has been paired with Lewis van Poetsch, a busy and tough fighter who is coming up to his 50th paid contest. He currently stands on 45.

Jack Summers is aiming to make up for lost time

Tom Stokes wants to increase his winning run

Stokes is hoping for more of the same, with a growing confidence about the meat in his gloves as he targets his first stoppage.

He said: "I'm feeling fit and focused. I need to fight more regularly now and build my record. I had a fight in March and I felt strong.

Tricky

"There's plenty of room for improvement but I know there's more to come. In my six pro fights to date, I've fought a range of opponents.

"I've had bigger guys like Gray and tricky fighters like Matt Seawright.

"I'm learning the game all the time and I'm gaining confidence with each fight," he added.

"I know van Poetsch from the circuit. He's a tough, durable and game lad. He'll come for a fight and that's what I like.

"It's a good chance to showcase my power and skill. I'm confident of getting a seventh win."

Top of the bill in an eight-rounder will be Halesowen's Lennox Clarke, who will get an opportunity to make it a dozen wins without reply against Dean Gillen.

The supporting cast to the main event includes the likes of Stafford's Rob Hunt, Tipton's Lee Glover and Craig Morris, from Ludlow in Shropshire.

Brummie pair Luke Walker and Jordan Clayton and Coventry's James Montgomery complete the card.

Tickets, priced at £30 and £60 ringside, are on still sale from the town hall box office on 0845 111 2900.

Play-off bid is boosted by away win

CRADLEY boss Will Pottinger described Sunday night's 52-38 win at Rye House as a turning point as they secured their first away league points of the season to bolster their play-off bid.

Said Pottinger: "It was a great team performance but with no disrespect to Rye House, this was a track we always felt confident of getting a result at."

RYE HOUSE 38: Robert Branford 12, Ben Morley 8, George Hunter 6+2, Luke Priest 6+1, Matt Saul 2+1, Connor Locke 2, Kenny Bowdery 2.

CRADLEY 52: Max Clegg 13, Ashley Morris 11+2, Bradley Andrews 10+3, Luke Chessell 8, Richard Andrews 8, Layne Cupitt 2+1, James Purchase R/R.

It was the second win in a row on their travels for Cradley after an impressive 47-43 Challenge win at Sheffield. It came at a cost, though as Ben Basford suffered concussion and whiplash in a heat 11 crash and faces a spell on the sidelines.

Sheffield: Arthur Sissis 12, Nathan Greaves 9+1, Jack Smith 9, Jack Parkinson-Blackburn 5+3, Joe Lawlor 4+1, Chris Widman 3+1, David Speight 1.

Cradley: Ashley Morris 13+1, Luke Chessell 10, Max Clegg 10, Bradley Andrews 6+2, Layne Cupitt 4, Ben Basford 3, Richard Andrews 1+1.

Chairman Nigel Pearson has hit out at 'amateurish' behaviour after the Heathens were awarded the points from the cancelled match at Mildenhall – a decision announced on Fen Tigers' website.

The June 19 trip was cancelled on the day by home promoter Kevin Jolly after Cradley – as permitted by regulations – named Matt Williamson as a guest to replace Luke Chessell, who had no machinery.

Mildenhall were hauled before a Speedway Control Bureau disciplinary hearing but before Heathens were officially told, the Fen Tigers' website said Cradley had been awarded the points with Jolly fined £250, suspended until the end of next season.

Pearson said: "I find it quite amateurish that officials of other clubs have started to debate on social media, based on what they have read on the website."

Leko looking to kick on after deal signed

JONATHAN Leko has vowed to kick on next season after signing a three-year professional contract with Albion.

The 17-year-old winger, who has been at Albion since he was 11, penned his first professional deal ahead of this week's pre-season fitness trip to Austria.

I just want to kick on and keep playing, hopefully get more starts," he said.

Fellow academy midfielder Sam Field, 18, who made his debut against Liverpool on the final day of last season, has signed his first professional contract.

Meanwhile, Albion have agreed a fee in the region of £5m with Queens Park Rangers for winger Matt Phillips.

★★★

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